

# Planetary Bricolage Manifesto (PBM)

## Preamble

In PB<sup>1</sup> we recognise the importance to our becoming fully human by, in part, **recrossing the first digital** divide and lens living learning and loving through our hands and our ten fingers/digits. Long ago education and much philosophy left the ‘chiro’ part of our humanity behind and even in the past such ‘work’ was left to slaves, women and now the autobots. Yet our hands play such a crucial role for us in our day to day lives (for kids and adults) – just ask someone to talk while sitting on their hands!!!!

If we look around us to-day we can see the Bricoleur (covering the following three categories) in many many areas yet these are like remanets, shards even, of a prior unity. We seek a post-modern-re-unity of these shards to generate a unity of lots of little stories rather than the re-appearance of the Grand Progress Narrative. In exploring the **Bricoleur** is a French word for which there are three primary component categories in our English language: 1 **Tinkerer** (hobbyist), 2 **Bush Mechanic** (Australian for ingenuous and often indigenous innovator)<sup>2</sup> and, 3 **Artificer** (more formal even military nuance); the concept however occurs in all cultures and especially in indigenous communities. Our manifesto views Bricolage as a human right!!

We are firmly committed to this approach as an antidote, even retrovirus, for our ‘systemic systems failure’ and its associated contemporary logic base<sup>2</sup> we see all around us today from failing governments, electricity grids, education, social services health and on to Big Data and Big Pharma etc. This has all been made possible by the rapid and increasing split between social innovation and technological innovation with some pundits positing the latter running several hundred thousand times the rate of the former.

Nowadays our collective consciousness is very much expressed through our media in which we are all deeply immersed. The media gets their money/makes their profit from what we consume and what we consume is ‘other’ i.e. in this economic model we do NOT, indeed we CAN NOT make it ourselves i.e. DIO. To me this seems more like a very sophisticated form of slavery. Today this ‘profit’ has the inevitability, reach and ‘naturalness’ of gravity it permeates every nook and cranny of our culture and indeed of our minds. Profit has become in effect our social gravity-machine and consumption our personal anti-gravity machine.

The Bricoleur, we maintain, is a valid and ultimately crucial sociological innovation in response to this collapse of our grand modern-techno-utopian-progressive narrative and the Logic Base it rests on. For us, as documented in this Manifesto, planetary sustainability requires nothing short of replacement logic bases i.e. **Bricoleur Logic Bases** (see following section) in effect to operate at a planetary level – the Planetary Bricoleur

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<sup>1</sup> **What then is Bricolage?** (B from French means ‘tinkerer’) is about the use of human ingenuity in a ‘crafty’ construction made of whatever materials are at hand; something created from a variety of available things – a Jack or Jill of all trades and master of some!! A person/craftsperson/design/system who is comfortable with unfamiliar realms and emergent situations and who can try/mix’n’match various options out until a suitable design emerges, such a form of praxis also includes design and fabrication of a tool for the job at hand. Tool in the sense of Technique (tool as extension of the human) rather than Technique (human as extension of the tool) an absolutely crucial nuance – in my opinion. See f/n 6 below. So then with Planetary Bricolage we move this process to a global stage.

<sup>2</sup> **What then is our contemporary Logic Base?** Somewhat gruesomely, my research indicates that it is likely to include esp. in Western Anglo countries: 1 The world is a bad and dangerous place, 2 (My) Might is (your) right, 3 A saviour (Me/\$) is needed, 4 Simplistic either/or thinking is all that is required, 5 Obedience to the centre is key, 6 Violence by me on you/other is ok, 7 Prejudice is necessary for my triumph, 8 Our earth is dispensable, 9 Exclusive self-interest is morally superior, 10 Nation States are a supreme artifice to which everyone MUST belong and give allegiance to at birth, **11 Arts and Crafts (humanities) are essentially worthless**, 12 Commodification of human relations and indeed our planet is inevitable and good, 13 Free trade is a necessity, 14 Capital is free to roam the planet whereas Labour is padlocked to the Nation State, 15 Growth is Go(o)d, 16 Technology trumps Nature, 17 few to many (whereas democracy is many to few), 18 Centralisation of Control not Harmonisation of Diversity is the underlying principle in social policy, 19 Only the global, centrally (read US!) defined, news etc. matters the periphery & ‘others’ such as women, the indigenous, GLTI and local etc. are dispensable. **Source:** In part drawn from <http://www.alternet.org/election-2016/trumps-worldview-mirrors-most-archaic-and-apocalyptic-christian-beliefs> - all this sounds like US Exceptionalism/President Trump’s/NeoCon’s philosophy doesn’t it?

– an omnibus term that in effect offers common principles and helps hold a space, doula like, for associated movements to interweave, movements such as Transition-Towns, Perma-Culture, Bio-Char, Earth-Ships etc.

On the other hand we may well ask: what are the components of our **Contemporary Logic Base**? One that is presently being uploaded into AI? Collectively and individually we submit we need/our planet desperately needs the alternative **PB Logic Base**. Late last year, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft and Google formed a group called Partnership on AI, a not-for-profit that plans to formulate best practices in AI technology. Where is the socio-technical counterpoint to this?

So we need portal whereby this ingrained dynamic is interrupted - indeed - and then restarted somewhere different. I believe PB offers such a portal by which this interruption can occur and then be restarted with a different (PB) logic base as an irruption of something archaic into something re-new-ed, something truly post-post-modern. A truly **'back to the future'** approach.

In this workshop seminar we will explore these various aspects of PB and explore how these may assist your, and your organisations, endeavours to discover and activate such an alternative Logic Base.

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## **Manifesto: Towards a PB Logic Base**

### **[A] Principles of PB:**

1. *Four elements in designing a PB Project* (practical wisdom, right intention, creative synthesis, efficacious extension), 2. *Four processes in undertaking a PB project in any of these four elements:* (PB (applying the **six principles of Bricolage** (see below), AR (Archaic Renaissance), DP (Direct Participation) & DE (Deep Empathy)).

### **[B] Attributes of PB - A PB project commits to these attributes:**

1. *Learning by doing:* in education – the curriculum from the lived life of the student, 2. *Blending Agency with dexterity*, 3 A recognition that **'hand-made head'** i.e. *'chiro generated cogno'* and *'hands not heads first'*<sup>3</sup>, 4. Incorporates **robust functionality and Simplicity** over complexity, 5. A focus on **Technique before Technique** (see f/n<sup>4</sup>&<sup>5</sup> below)<sup>4</sup>, 6. **DIO Resilience** esp. for youth inc. young men, 7. *Participatory governance* – Deep Participation and collaboration (DP) of *many to many*, 8. **Evolvable sustainability** - through practical creativity, community economy and harmonisation of diversity not centralisation of conformity, 9. Practices the *Politics of peace* which includes - (9a) operates often beneath host systems' radar, (9b) a strong commitment to *Power-with* rather than *Power-over* governance, 10. **Glocality** that is undertaking local project with global/ planetary impacts and vice versa yet always with local autonomy, 11 **Simplicity** – a practical interweaving of simplicity

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<sup>3</sup> Here we see the archaic parallel of three interwoven daily handy activities – fire, and making, & using basic tools with the socialisation & the haptic tactility with dexterous agency there-of/with/from e.g. shed/kitchen/garden/camping activities.

<sup>4</sup> Here I submit we need to invert the view we have of ourselves from one of head to hand without heart, to one of hand to heart to head. In a sense we need to see ourselves more than Enlightenment beings all head with the rest basically left off or withering completely with infusions of human or computer slave/AI, to a Renaissance being that values craft as a two-way expression of us and our hands.

For example the majority of Cephalopod's (Octopus) 500m neurons (about the same as a dog or a two year old child) are in their equivalent of hands so that these **'brainy ∞ arms'** can touch, taste, smell and even see (via. camouflage skin colour changes) . Further they show playful; mischief and craft' with their hands as a key characteristic of octopus intelligence. So Octopi actually think and play with their hands and fingers (and suckers!!). In a crucial sense this is what I am saying is being lost in humans. Another take on the Western Cartesian 'either-or' dualistic 'mind-or-body' thematic. **Source:** [https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/28/alien-intelligence-the-extraordinary-minds-of-octopuses-and-other-cephalopods?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/mar/28/alien-intelligence-the-extraordinary-minds-of-octopuses-and-other-cephalopods?CMP=share_btn_fb)

And guess what??? Scientists at the University of Leeds UK, have just now discovered that, like the octopus, we have a **distributed system of mini-brains around our body**. So now it's not so much 'think like an Egyptian' as 'think like an Octopus'. So to be fully human we need new ways to think with our body. Enter stage left 'homo tactilicus' our archaic ancestor of 'homo bricoleur'. <http://www.naturalnews.com/2017-04-17-scientists-shocked-to-discover-the-human-body-is-full-of-mini-brains-that-function-without-using-the-central-nervous-system.html>

and complexity with a recognition that change begins at, and depends on, the margins<sup>5</sup>, 12. Holding the space for others – our **Doula** function, 13. *Becoming fully-human* (the **1<sup>st</sup> digital divide**) before we become computerised trans-human (the 2<sup>nd</sup> dd) and ultimately disappear into our machines (3<sup>rd</sup> dd), and, 15. **Local attribute** – your (groups) culture, attribute & contribution inc. indigenous Logic Bases.

### **[C] Intentions of PB – overall a PB project seeks to:**

1. *Re-joining the dots* - **shards**<sup>6</sup>, 2. *Independent self-taught study program* e.g. a sub-versity, emergence college etc., 3. *Demonstrate the centrality of Learning* (Pedagogy; Play for Kids and Learning Circles for Adults), 4. *Maintain a praxis focus:* (4a) Support Group web based such as Hot Futures, (4b) PB app for rapid lateral sharing of PB projects, (4c) More structured and historical PB project clearing house, (4d) Bush-Mechanics Hall of Fame, (4e) Craft Museum, (4f) PB Planetary Service, 5. Be an *un-project* – a post NGO-NGO incorporating these points (participatory Governance, social innovation etc.), 6. Link to *autonomous affinity projects* Independent/doula/intervolved with those who commit so similar praxis.

### **[D] PB Projects may be viewed as -**

1. An **Anti-dote** for the dis-ease of today, so called ‘progress’  
2. *P2P Collaboration* (from follow through meeting after workshop/learning circle) with global commons legality, 3. An expression of *Intervolvement with affinity Projects* e.g. TT (Transition Towns), BC (BioChar), PC (PermaCulture). Indeed PB is the missing ingredient in all these movements.

### **The six emergent principles of a Bricolage/Bush Mechanics Logic Base**

These six principles represent the **commonalities in process** Dr. Wildman identified in a 15 year research project applying Grounded Theory approach to some six Bush Mechanics in Australia. In the following we see **embodied**, and ultimately en’Gaia’ed, participation through a perspective that recognises Hand, Heart and Head, generally in that order as vital to understanding the pattern that connects different types of artificers, & that can lead to transformative outcomes.

Indeed PB argues that *the urge to create/fabricate/make/bricoleur* and relate *is a fundamental human right*. This *will to create* is foundational in understanding what it is to be human and indeed he argues as such it/this manifesto should be recognised as a **‘human right to bricoleur’** where as it has been excluded from most education, social, religious and economic relations which all valorise abstract thinking, ideas and grand theory. We argue that this distortion needs to be redressed urgently in individual and community projects that seek to exemplify these Principles:

- 1. Journeyman’s piece - Exemplar Project**
- 2. Personal Individuation – outer doing ∞ inner knowing Inner-Outer Worlds**
- 3. Mutual aid - Social Holon – Relationship**
- 4. The big picture that our project fits into - Planetary Problematique**
- 5. The parts fit, and work, together – Harmonisation**
- 6. Learning from doing Deep Learning Principle**

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<sup>5</sup> Professor Peter Wiperman proposed a social definition of simplicity (adapted PW): *We long for elegant sufficiency, but in the end usually settle for discount coupons. Simplicity therefore stands for a balance between the growing complexity of daily life & our own personal desire for this sufficiency. In order to attain this state, we have to stop always striving to make optimal decisions. In the future, it will be more important to make judgments that are just good enough.*

<sup>6</sup> **Where then may we see the Bricoleur today?** We see this today in various arenas such as: Bricolage as convivial Service to Gaia for instance illustrates how Civil Society can be enhanced though a ‘maker’, ‘DIY’, ‘DIO’, ‘Artificer’, ‘Prime’atives/Primeactives’, Prepper’s, Doomers, Communalists, Wilders, Survivalists, Hobbyists (e.g. restoration of old cars and motorcycles), Crafters, Gardner’s, Retroists, Prosumers, Financial Hackers, Co-ops, Intentional Communities, Bricolage World Service and so forth approach to sociability as mutual aid. Inversely we see aspects of the Bricoleur in ISIS activities and Transhumanist eugenics. Finally these arenas are largely discrete and not linked ‘these dots aren’t joined’ in short they are **shards**, like parts of a broken bottle, once whole now in pieces scattered around.

Today we find the **shards** of what used to be a much wider & cohesive distribution of Bricoleurs. Several of these I have identified include: (1) **Bush Mechanic** (techne/artificact builder<sup>7</sup>; P1); (2) **Agape Artificer** (relationship/nurturance facilitator; P3); (3) **Eco-Artificer** (ecological praxis; P4); (4) **Artisan-Artificer** (artistic, artisan specialist; P1), (5) **Community-Artificer** (community animateur; P3), **Green Activist/Social Justice Crusader** (P4), (6) **Systems Design practitioner** (P5); (7) **Pedagogical artificer** (learning, education; P6).

### [E] Resources available for PB:

**CRAFT eZine** PB Resource site for 'glocal' PB projects – local projects with global/planetary impacts (see:

<http://www.crafters-connect.com/craft-issue-8/> )

**Financial Hackers:** <http://www.financial-hacker.com/>

**Gibb, A.** (2015) *Building Open Source Hardware: DIY Manufacturing for Hackers and Makers* 1st Edition. Indiana US, RR Donnelley. 317pgs.

**Kororoit Institute** (Melbourne) PB respects Fred Emery's insights from 25+years ago towards 'socio-technical' emergence then intervolve praxis aspects of community emergence, knowledge and praxis sharing, and collaborative governance as such it respects and even energises many of the foundational attributes of a positive future for our children's children and also the Kororoit Institute, influential in the formation of this MUG. <http://kororoit.org/>

**Logic Base:** then means the formal logical relations (defined primarily through Mathematical, Propositional and Predicate Logics) between premises and propositions that form the conceptual structure of our Western Enlightenment culture. Wildman, P. (2016). *Zeitgeist – Weltanschauung- Logic Base Attributes: some understandings*. Brisbane: The Kalgrove Institute. 3pgs.

**Martin,** Howard *Heart Intelligence* YouTube <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=F9dNIhNvIGw>

**Marx:** *the whole of what is called world history is nothing more than the creation of man through human labour* (see more at: <http://www.siop.org/tip/april17/gerard.aspx#sthash.aqyhrh6u.dpuf> )

<http://www.alternet.org/election-2016/trumps-worldview-mirrors-most-archaic-and-apocalyptic-christian-beliefs> . All this sounds like US Exceptionalism/President Trump's philosophy doesn't it?

**Musk:** <https://a.msn.com/r/2/BBA6By1?m=en-au>

We are, Szent-Gyorgyi's (1970), **Crazy Ape** in our narrow *Zeitgeist* of *entropic logic base* cage the 'spirit of our times' rather we need a *syntropic logic base*, one based on consciousness. In life we need a balance thus 'the balance of Nature'.

**Mythos:** Hestia, Hephaestus and Wayland the Smithy.

**Many to Many**=M2M ≡P2P ≡Open Source ≡Global Commons

**Ong:** *Late last year i.e. in 2016, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft and Google formed a group called Partnership on AI, a not-for-profit that plans to formulate best practices in AI (Logic Base) technology.* (See following 2 refs) (PW)

<https://www.partnershiponai.org/>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-13/artificial-intelligence-coming-sooner-than-you-think-experts-say/8440358>

**PB as Cultural Farming:** <http://www.culturalfarming.com/home/Bricolage.html>

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<sup>7</sup> Techne'que in this sense means where a tool is an extension or expression of the human not as in Techni'que where the opposite is the case and although this distinction was hugely important for the Ancient Greeks and tragically today we have lost this discernment and indeed whole societies have become expressions of la'technique.