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## WELCOME NOTE

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Realise Newsletter.

Thanks to all those people who have contributed directly and indirectly to the group this month. Particularly to those who offered their ideas for the publicity of the group.

The group meeting on 19 August was marked with the unveiling of the new group symbol (below).



The circle represents the wheels of human progress. It frames the view of the direction or journey towards a better world for all. The horizontal line symbolises the horizon (or the future) and the two 45 degree lines indicate the path to a better world. The semi-circle above the horizon line represents the rising and setting suns - the times of the day when we realise a better world.

The ideas meeting about the publicity of the group marks a milestone for the group which means that it is ready for a wider audience. The website is now at a stage where it can explain itself so thank you to all those members who have contributed and have already been recommending the site to their mates. A wider membership base means that Realise can offer more to its members so please let your mates know.

## THE POOL ROOM

This month Andy Goldsworthy's "Before the Mirror" goes straight to the pool room.

This piece is an example of resourcefulness, using only local materials to create something innovative and unique to the place. The work also raises awareness of the unchangeable environmental processes of growth, staying and decaying that humankind must work with in order to survive and prosper. I hope his work inspires you.

If you have any creative pieces of your own, or find others with an inspiring, positive outlook to moving towards a better world, please contact us. We'd love to hear from you.

## WISE USE OF MONEY

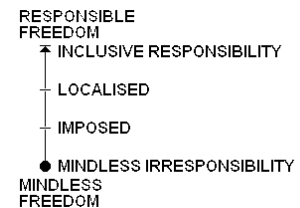
Right livelihood comes down to your choice of occupation.

Individuals may consider themselves to be 'stuck', doing jobs that they wouldn't normally do because they need the money. But if we consider

the wider consequences of our actions we may be indirectly making life harder for ourselves.

Right livelihood means that "each person should follow an honest occupation which fully respects other people and the natural (and human-made) world."

([www.rightlivelihood.org](http://www.rightlivelihood.org)). By respecting other people (society) and the natural world (our environment) we are demonstrating inclusive responsibility and moving towards responsible freedom.



'Inclusive responsibility' means that we are acting with responsibility towards our occupations. It extends beyond 'mindless irresponsibility' - considering only your desires for your own better world). It extends beyond 'imposed responsibility' - acting for fear of punishment or reduction of wages. It extends beyond 'localised responsibility' - showing responsibility only for your own family or community. Striving for 'inclusive responsibility' involves striving for 'responsible freedom', a state where we want to include society and the environment in our decision making, instigating a movement towards freedom for all.

In terms of occupations this includes:

- Making a commitment to ourselves moving towards a more inclusive responsibility,
- Aiding others to make the commitment by supporting or raising awareness,
- Reducing the chances that our actions contribute to inhibiting others moving towards responsible freedom.

Right livelihoods are occupations that spend every hour of the day working towards strengthening relationships within society (with responsibility, respect and trust) and/or with our environment (built or natural environment) to achieve good quality basic needs for air, water, food, shelter, belonging, security and esteem for all. Sometimes the most we can manage is moving towards making that commitment for a right livelihood. No one can ask for more than your best efforts.

An example of moving towards a right livelihood might be the transition from Civil Engineering to Landscape Architecture to Permaculture Design.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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Similar skills are required for each profession. While Civil Engineering generally considers our immediate and short-term social needs, Landscape Architecture tends to attract work requiring some amount of compromising social needs with environmental needs. Permaculture Design is more about fitting social needs into environmental systems so that all needs are satisfied. This strengthens social relationships locally and around the world. It also strengthens the relationships we have with our environment through considering good quality air, water, food and shelter for the long-term future.

If a critical mass of individuals began to pursue right livelihoods social change would force businesses to consider more responsible and wiser techniques for moving towards a better world or fade away. More positions would be created in more wise employment requiring similar skill levels. Perhaps it could even create a greater amount of jobs.

For more information on this topic please go to our website (listed to the left). At the homepage click 'Members' and then click 'Solutions'.

#### POSITION ON DAMS

The question of where Realise stands on dam issues was raised. Dams create a water resource for cities so they can be positive in creating a better world. However there are also issues concerning loss of land as a resource, loss of communities and livelihoods, reduced capacity of ecosystems to rejuvenate themselves without human intervention and impacts of downstream communities and ecosystems. These issues create division between people in society and between humans and their environment. Therefore dams can't move as directly towards a better world 'for all' as other options.

Other options to dams may include:

- Raising awareness for effective water storage and use.
- Raising awareness for reducing, reusing and recycling options where possible.
- Creatively exploring other options - perhaps through technology.
- Encourage and support individuals and communities to empower themselves with ownership of their water (eg. rainwater tanks).
- Raising awareness to the individuals' responsibility who might otherwise consider moving towards a region where there are already water shortages.

These steps taken by a community would strengthen relationships within society and between humans and our environment and allow us to move towards responsible freedom. In this way the water shortages are not so much a problem as much as they are a challenge for all of us and an opportunity for us to unite for recognition of water as a basic human need.

#### IDEAS MEETINGS

On Saturday 19 August a meeting was held to discuss ideas for publicity for the group. It had been recognised that publicity could allow an increase in the membership resulting in more contributions from members. Through more contributions the group could then offer more resources to all members. Increasing the membership can give an impression of growth, increasing the energy within the group and the credibility of the group.

The target audience for the group is 'people with a social conscience'. Ideas ranged from emailing friends to television interviews. From these ideas and the inspiration that followed a strategy of publicity for the group can now be developed to engage the wider public.

Thanks again to those who contributed.

The next ideas meeting is entitled: 'Fun in the group'  
Date/Time: Saturday, 23 Sept 2006, 10.30am.  
Venue: Northey Street City Farm, Windsor, Brisbane. On the grass near Victoria Street.

Reasons:

- Increasing the desire to make contributions to the group.
- Maintaining and increasing the energy of the group.
- Increasing the interest from within and beyond the membership.

Ideas such as:

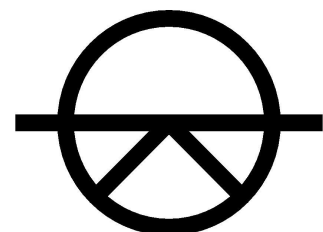
- Events.
- Ways of bringing music, art and literature into the group.
- Making it fun to contribute to the group.

#### WHAT'S NEW?

The most significant addition to the website has been the new Realise symbol (see Welcome Note). It is hoped that this symbol can represent Realise and the growing 'culture of wisdom' in society.

A site map has recently been added to the website to increase the ease of navigation around the site. Also an 'Events' page has been added to the 'Members' directory. This page will become a calendar of group events and other relevant positive events for a better world for all.

#### REALISE A BETTER WORLD



To add yourself to the mailing list simply send a blank email to: [realiseabetterworld@yahoo.com.au](mailto:realiseabetterworld@yahoo.com.au)

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