

Wilderness community for sacred and social ecology

Now is the time to reflect, to read others, compare, assess, to embed in our minds meanings from the experience.

To ask what were the highs and lows, what worked and what didn't, what was planned and what happened in response?

The river and the rocks meant that people were encouraged to hold and to let flow. The landscape provided safety and encouragement to find new paths built from participant's rock of being. Whereas if in a desert or the sea then more of a radical incentive. Change to be sustainable needs evolution, focus, discipline, vision rather than radical transformation as a result of radical trauma or vision.

Camped on the edge of the Buchan River.
In its flood plane.
Surrounded by river and rock,
forest and farm.
Previous floods marked within the trees.
Relieved that the heavy rains didn't come

Excited and anxious to discover where to be
Struggling to find places for tents,
Building our fire, kitchen and raising our personal spaces.

Cold autumn nights
Star filled and bright
Morning damp
Shrouding mist
River rapids singing

Eagles wielding, platypus swimming, darting kingfisher.
Gaggling black and white Chuffs:
Welcoming, celebrating, bantering
Mirroring our own experience

We honoured and challenged,
giving thanks and opening to receive
Bodies' celebrated and their painful teachings explored

Travelling back in time across white settlement,
to first people's happy time in country
Feeling this as mother, child and father.
Attuned to our grief of their loss,
and ours for lack of being in country
Celebrating the transformation of white perceptions of korrie's
Wondering who has most to learn?

Exploring the remnants of early white settlement
The bricks of a miners hut
The rotting timbers of mining production

The dark, dank hole of an old salted mine

Listening to the proud station owner,
celebrating his country, its strength of blood heritage in cattle and sheep,
Lushness of the autumn, contrasting with drought and fire just missed.
The work always to be done and the fears, joys of the unknown tomorrow.

Working together in community, chopping wood and carrying water.
Eating, sleeping, wondering; sharing our experience.
Exploring its challenges.
What makes a celebration sacred?
How can we turn a cooking fire into a soul fire circle?

Paddled up the river through an unnamed gorge
Its morning mist lifted
Across the rapids, swimming,
rock collecting and understanding.

Solo time in special personal places
Each unique as we are diverse.
A burrow for some and the cliff tops for others
and ranges in between.

Last journey out of camp into country
A pilgrimage to where the rivers join: the snowy and the Buchan.
To hear the story of white myth, grief and new hope
A future for a river released from bondage.

Time to say goodbye and begin making sense,
Reflecting upon dark, light and all the shadows in between.
We danced, sang,
held and released
Packed up, clean up
Leaving our conscious free footprint

Disturbed again by clash of country
Rural, wild and urban
Fast and slow.

We blessed by country, its history, and elements.
Blessed by community: human and other than human
More than paradise, better than Eden
Amazed and awake

Bodies resilient
Clearer of mind,
Deeper of heart,
Moments in touch with the infinite.

Challenges faced

Experiencing being part of nature
Relearning survival skills
Basic needs and sacred discoveries
Caring for community and self
Having fun, letting go and ritualising celebrations.

Some questions

What are the nature of our responsibilities and the role of the rest of nature?

Who and what values am I accountable too?

What is **my voice** and how is it part of a larger chorus?

can ritual help to clear our decks, open doors to deepen meaning, enhance everyday life not to escape it, help us to look in more ways than straight ahead?

How do I be about what I do?

Some Principles for practice

Nature connecting

Left field nature connection, generalization and then personal application

Listening, observing other natures life

Connection with the spirit of life as vital to our well-being.

Even as we eat being mindful of its life- well-being as species.

Nature connection not risky exposure

Being conscious clear about our footprint

Community

Moving through tolerance\intolerance to acceptance of difference and affection for each other

Being by the river, not in it

Giving thanks and being of service

Honouring being and challenging becoming

Journeying in and out

Authenticity, responsibility, participation of all dimensions of person

Sacred without preciousness, nature without sentimentality

Sacred growing out of the experience, not imposed upon

Sacred in everyday, like black middens, built up over time through honouring everyday living in community and nature. Chop wood carry water.

Design

Planning, structure and responding to flow.

Circles, seasons more than lines

The real shamans, witches, gurus, etc are those who bring nature and culture into harmony.

Issues

Meaning of community-social and psyche-communities are often strife ridden because members haven't spent time with themselves- know themselves if did then be able to accept more difference, see ourselves v deny it in others.

Love v use. Nature as sacred, -giving thanks and being of service V Nature as resource-wise use for food, shelter, psyche, spirit? –using what you need respectfully- this comes with knowledge, continuity, commitment to care and be limited to needs.

Views of country-first one with, white pioneers terror of country eg mt misery. Alien, scary- fear from ignorance v from knowing its power

Tools for the journey

Edge places that hold

Fire circle

Role allocations- what we do together (clean up) and what is in pairs etc.

Chop wood, carry water

needs technology

diverse landscape

biodiversity

small group of committed people

sufficient time

elemental harmony

community meeting- how are you, reviews since last meeting, how are you feeling about your place within this community?

cultural expression

Solo time find it, be in it, leave it, visit by community.- guide-travel through your life span, map its significant events, reflect on the people you matter and have done so-how so.. Be mindful of your intention; patterns of thought that repeat, yet be open to left field. Emotions -Allow all that you feel to have its space. Take note, observe, listen to your body- its potential and constraints. Spirit; consider your energy, life force. Other nature- who visits, who and what are they what is their contribution to life?

physical warm up

complementary guides

journal writing

Rituals practiced

for food honouring

opening the fire circle

transformation

honouring our journey, telling our story

go round in community- checking in

what is our challenge of community today

Performances

singing in song, drumming,

snake curl and fling into the centre

giving voice to learning's
telling our story

Something spiritual happened

A feeling of being blessed, being in tune, hearing other voices, sense of magic,
synergy.