

Welcome to [ASK] - Always Seeking Knowledge!

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Written and Published by Bruce Ward, Holistic Results Pty. Limited

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1. Quick [ASK]

Imagine for a moment the entire world being re-created in the manner a relatively small but growing number of people are already experiencing. A world where all choices are 'liberating choices' that expand their resource base. Imagine the global psyche changing towards 'always enough' as their successes gather, as raindrops form a flood. Imagine enough energy to go around, and enough food, water and air, simply because people make regenerative choices. Such a change can occur in our lifetimes if we are serious about it, and common sense takes hold!

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2. Welcome

Some good news! Herstal and Allyson Ulrich recently won the Best Livestock Farm in the inaugural Balance Environment Canterbury Farm Environment Awards, already recognised as one of the major awards in NZ. The judges were impressed with the grazing management on both of their properties, the focus on soil health, biodiversity, pasture health and the integration of the dryland property with the irrigated property.

Bob McFarland, founder of the Charlie Carp organisation was a finalist in a very impressive field at the Banksia Foundation's Environment Awards held on May 31 on the Gold Coast. Well done Bob, Erroly and Andrew! At the same function Allan Savory was awarded the Banksia Foundation's International Environment Award. You could have heard a pin drop as he spoke. Let us all hope it is the start of something big, and a real impetus to our movement. Recognition such as this is certainly long overdue.

Allan and Jody stayed on to attend an excellent day at Orange on June 4. There, Allan publicly shared more of the history of his work. He described how, all around him people were saying things were 'ok', but he knew he was heading down the slippery slide, and how he simply had to use common sense when beginning to develop holistic financial planning.

It was good to see Nick Cobcroft, formerly of Quirindi, now at Young, where Pops and he have purchased next door to Richard and Sue Gordon. Nick was keen that we should all throw in a bit of money, and create an opportunity that would allow all politicians to be exposed to Allan's thinking. Allan has flagged on this trip that the next step in his career will focus on good governance, and as he notes, 'no one is well governed until all are well governed'.

A few new babies in the wings, and some of them were at Orange! Lizzie and Grant Molloy (Carcoar) and Craig and 'Super Susan' Salmon (Moree) each had very recent additions on hand.

During a chat to Ross Copeman I gleaned that he has completely de-stocked Abedoar, due to drought, but has managed to retain 478 of his 480 beef and chicken customers. What a performance that must have been - it says something about retaining customer loyalty through honest communication with them. Great work, Ross and Janette.

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3. There is always 'enough' if we change our view

It seems there may be only two options: There is always 'enough', or there is 'never enough'. After four months rigorous work with a consultant, analysing what is required to have changed decision-making become the accepted practice in all situations, we have uncovered some interesting and possibly undocumented insights into human behaviour.

'Never enough' comes from the base known as *fear*. I am reminded of the smallgoods truck spilling its load of hams, bacon, sausages etc. into a small, nearly frozen creek alongside the road. The police secured the site, then the insurance assessor arrived. The assessor declared the load a write-off, and organised an excavator to prepare a hole at the local refuse tip, into which the material would be placed. Then he was called away to yet another emergency. You can imagine! The hole was filled in, but not many hams were in it! After a frenzied scramble, it was clear that many people in that small community would not have to buy smallgoods for months to come! The fear was 'if I don't get mine, somebody else will have more than me'. Wide-scale looting comes from the same fear, although it will often masquerade as other emotions, very often presented as joy at the removal of repression (which of course is also based on fear).

Fear seems, in many instances, to drive people to work. I recall working with

a senior banking executive one day. He remarked to me, almost as an aside, 'I am so sick of working 25 hours a day'. You can be sure that he was not working 25 hours a day because he loved his Bank above all else. He was doing it because he loved his family, but fear he might lose them was the driver. Was he in fear of his mortgage, his kids being able to keep up with the Joneses, his lifestyle, or what? Who knows. The important point is that fear of 'never enough', or at least that it might all stop if lost his job, drove him to work harder and harder.

On the other hand there is a different driver underlying the notion that there is always enough. Joseph Simmonetta wrote "Be healthy, be kind, respect the environment" in his fabulous little book, *Seven Words that Could Change the World*. The underlying notion was that of *love* - love of oneself and of the environment we live in. In the natural world there is always enough air for us to breathe, and I would suggest shelter, food and water as well. Beyond that, man has made decisions and used tools that have impacted the availability and distribution of shelter, food, water, and more. Arising from this is the notion that some people 'have', and others 'have not'.

Human experience throughout the world has been one of continual degradation. We have seen so many civilisations subsumed by jungle or sand that the global psyche is most likely acceptance that degradation is natural. That would inevitably lead to a consciousness that there is never enough, and that view underpins the subject of our book review this issue.

Right now, experience is showing that people are changing their landscapes at a local level, enhancing rather than degrading their resource base, and doing so in a manner that seems to pass the testing as best we know at the moment. Let's assume that the results manifesting now are a true change, based on the genuinely new choice making framework we are all working with. Over time, it seems reasonable to expect that more people will adopt the new way of making their choices, even if there are pockets of resistance in the short term.

Imagine for a moment the entire world being re-created in the manner that a relatively small but growing number of people are already experiencing. A world where all choices are 'liberating choices' that expand their resource base. Imagine the global psyche changing towards 'always enough' as their successes gather, as raindrops form a flood. Imagine enough energy to go around, and enough food, water and air, simply because people make regenerative choices. Such a change can occur in our lifetimes if we are serious about it, and common sense takes hold!

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4. Update your Diary

Support Groups - can you let both ourselves and HDMA know of your dates, so we can each let others know.

Events we have planned include:

Friday, July 4, Singleton, NSW Management	Introduction to Holistic
Monday, July 7, Quirindi, NSW Planning	Holistic Grazing and Land
Friday, July 11, Wingham, NSW Planning	Holistic Grazing and Land
Wednesday, July 23, Wanaka, NZ Planning	Holistic Grazing and Land
Wednesday, July 30, Quirindi, NSW Management	Introduction to Holistic
Friday, August 8, Comboyne, NSW Management	Introduction to Holistic

Support Groups

Saturday, August 23, Burrell Creek, NSW organised by	A general field day Manning Landcare. The last one, at Barrington, near Gloucester attracted 85 people
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Coaching

For many years our business has been coaching people in holistic goal formation, wealth generation planning and biological planning. This service is provided by regular phone schedule, by email, or in person at your location.

Successful people use a coach to stay on track. Importantly, in difficult times coaching often provides the critical difference between clarity and debilitating confusion.

Without caring help, it is all too easy to deviate from where you want to be - to some place else. We act as a 'process coach', letting you focus on the outcome you require, taking away the worries people so often experience - such as, 'Am I doing this the right way?' Coaching is an

important part of working on your business rather than all the time in the business.

Email blward@holisticresults.com.au to discuss your coaching time.

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5. Books and Materials you can use

"Small is Beautiful"

By EF Schumaker

ISBN 0 88179 169 5

The subtitle of this book is 'Economics as if People Mattered'. The edition reviewed was published 25 years following the original, with commentaries by a diverse range of influential commentators, such as Paul Hawken. It was also the seminal work that inspired Ernesto Sirolli (Ripples from the Zambezi) to commence his life's work in Enterprise Facilitation.

Fritz Schumacher was economic advisor to the British Coal Board for 20 years, and during this time much of his thinking was created. I have a personal interest in this. My only time as an employee of other than my own business was with Colly Farms in the early 1980's. At that time the land base of Colly Farms was owned by the British Coal Board, and although we were becoming a significant player in Australian agriculture we were an entirely uneconomic unit for our London landlord, representing some 0.01% of their asset value, yet occupying on an annual basis some full week of travel and time for a senior executive to visit their investment (amazingly, these people always arrived in Collarenebri during the first week of February (40+C) dressed in a three piece suit and bowler hat!!). We were on the chopping block very quickly, when they saw an opportunity to divest themselves. I think they recalled Noel Coward singing about 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen Go out in the Midday Sun'.

Schumaker believed that scale was the major contributor to economic and social decline. As we now know, that is not entirely the case - human decision making plays the significant part. Nevertheless, his book is amazing in both its perception and ease of reading. He argues strongly that an intermediate technology must be developed that harnesses the power of millions (billions) of low income families in a way that enhances their output, prosperity and happiness. Machines that replace humans under these conditions will destroy entire nations, he contends.

The book is wide ranging, and spends time discussing India, a nation close to Schumaker's heart. Discussing the inequality of education in that country, he quotes Leo Tolstoy, who had previously written about the burden prosperity

and education (and consequently, privilege) places on the poor: *"I sit on a mans back, choking him, and making him carry me, and yet assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by any means possible, except getting off his back"*.

Schumaker's final chapter commences: "In the excitement over the unfolding of his scientific and technical powers, modern man has built a system of production that ravishes nature and a type of society that mutilates man. If only there were more and more wealth, everything else, it is thought, would fall into place. Money is considered to be all-powerful; if it could not actually buy non-material values such as justice, harmony, beauty, or even health, it could circumvent the need for them or compensate for their loss". Schumaker disagrees!

Footnote: The Schumaker Foundation is active still in England, headed by Diana Schumaker, EF Schumaker's daughter in law. They publish materials, and conduct annual symposiums supporting good environmental and social movements.

By the way:

You can get this book from The Book Connection in Dubbo, NSW

Ph: 02 6882 3311 Fax: 02 6882 3311 or email

orders@bookconnection.com.au

(Also ask them about their Mail Order Catalogue - it is terrific)

or

Scorpio Books in Christchurch, NZ

Ph: 03 379 2882 Fax: 03 379 2886 or email scorpbk@ihug.co.nz

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6. Tourists

Suzie and I are taking a few weeks off. We will be visiting friends in New Mexico and Colorado, before heading to Toronto, Canada. If you need anything in the next couple of weeks, please call Jo Richards on our number 02 9929 5568. Leave a message if she is not in.

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7. Quotes that mean something

'How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment to improve the world.'

-- Anne Frank

'The problem is never how to get new, innovative thoughts into your mind, but how to get the old ones out. Every mind is a building filled with archaic

furniture. Clean out a corner of your mind and creativity will instantly fill it.'
-- Dee Hock

'Trust that still, small voice that says, This might work and I'll try it.'
-- Diane Mariechild

'The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen.'
-- Frank Lloyd Wright

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8. Joke

This one comes from a Probus Club Newsletter:
"Mummy", asked the little boy. "How do lions make love?"

"I don't know darling. Daddy's friends are all Rotarians."

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Regards

Bruce Ward