
Curriculum Vitae for John Croft

Current Occupation



I am a professional international Consultant, Educator, Facilitator, and Trainer in the field of Ecologically Sustainable Community Economic Development, and have been working in the field both officially and in a voluntary capacity, teaching at University and in other contexts, and researching the subject for the last thirty six years, both Internationally and in Australia. I am also the principal creator of the internationally recognised "Dragon Dreaming" © approach to running successful small community based projects, that make people's dreams come true.

In Australia until June 2008 I was employed as Senior Project Officer by the Community Capacity Building Division of the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, and was the Course Controller, Lecturer and Tutor for the Undergraduate Course "Understanding Sustainable Development Practices" offered at Second and Third Year level for the Arts and Sciences degree at Notre Dame University, Western Australia. I have also been a frequent guest lecturer at Murdoch University's "Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy", in the field of Sustainability Ethics. Before that I was working in this field with the State Government for the previous eighteen years. Most of my work with the State Government in this field was for a while recognised as one of the leading Australian agencies. In 1997, for instance, we were acknowledged as a finalist in the Western Australian government's award for excellence in the delivery of government services to regional areas.

Internationally, over my working life I have frequently worked in Asia, the Pacific, Africa, Europe and the USA, working with individuals, groups and networks of people wishing to undertake various innovative community initiatives for a sustainable future.

I am also co-founder of and part time volunteer with the Gaia Foundation of Western Australia, an organisation committed by its three principles to work in the areas of personal growth, building community and service to the Earth. Members of the Foundation undertake personal projects that meet these Foundation objectives. Started in 1987, the Foundation has conducted over 611 successful projects in Western Australia. We currently have 171 registered members in Western Australia and are currently engaged in more than 50 projects.

I am also a Board Member of Sophia College, a recognised tertiary level education provider which provides training in community development, and a range of holistic counselling and Buddhist and artistic therapies.

In the past I was a founder member and on the Committee of the WA Branch of the Australian Association for Sustainable Communities, and the WA Association for Adult and Community Education and have been an emeritus member of the Living Earth Solutions, an Eco Village Design Consultancy Cooperative, working with Max Lindegger, who was co-founder of the Global Eco-Village Network, and the Co-Designer of Crystal Waters Eco-Village, Queensland, which recently won a United Nations International Habitat Award for Sustainable Design.



From March 2006 to March 2007 I was engaged on an around the world study tour, running workshops and teaching in California, Oregon, Washington, the UK, France, Germany and Egypt, in the fields of project development for ecologically sustainable community economic development and community responses to climate change. Since June 2008 have been working with the Lebenskunst Bodensee Seminarhaus, an sustainability and mindfulness education centre, the Permakultur Akademie and with Sieben Linden Ecovillage, in Germany, and with Valley View University in Accra, Ghana, with The Middle East Technical University in Ankara, the Sandhi Institute, Sri Lanka and other organisations in the areas of Dragon Dreaming (participatory strategic planning and empowered fundraising) and ecologically sustainable community economic development. I am currently involved in helping the Global Ecovillage Network prepare for the International Climate Change, Copenhagen in November 2009, the Transition Town Conference in Britain, April 2009, and EcoSys 09, a major conference on ecologically sustainable development in Ghana, in July this year.

Qualifications

- * B.A. (Geog) University of Western Australia 1970 (Biogeography and Human Planning) (offered Honours in 1969)
- * Dip Ed (Best student UWA) 1974
- * B.Ed (equiv) (Winner of Joseph Lauwerys Prize as best student) London University Institute of Education 1977
- * Completed writing a Ph.D. thesis on "The relationship between non formal (community) education and community development in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea" (London Uni & UWA) 1986 (never completed)
- * Currently enrolled with ISTP, Murdoch University for a second Ph.D. in the field of Environmental Ethics writing a book on "Dragon Dreaming: Opening the Global Heart – an exploration of our human destiny" which will be complete August 2008.

University and Other Relevant Positions Held

1977 - Resource Officer – International Extension Office, London University Institute of Education
1978 – Researcher – International Institute of Education Planning – UNESCO Paris
1978 – Researcher – United Nations Research Institute for Social Development – ILO Geneva
1979 – Lecturer – Edith Cowan University Churchlands Campus – Sociology & Philosophy of Education (then WACAE)
1979 – Tutor – Curtin University School of Education
1983 – Lecturer – Edith Cowan University Mount Lawley Campus - Sociology of Education
1989-90 – Lecturer – Curtin University – School of Social Work – Community Development
1990 – TAFE – Course Organiser for 14 week course on Community Development and Environmental Activism (broadcast via Westlink)
1999 – Guest Lecturer – Edith Cowan University Bunbury Campus – Sustainability and Community Development
1999 – 2001 – Member of Sustainability Interest Group, Edith Cowan University Bunbury Campus
2001 – Guest Lecturer – ISTP – Murdoch University - Environmental Ethics – Gaia Theory
2002 – Guest Lecturer – Sustainability and Spirituality – Murdoch University
2006-07 – Guest Lecturer – Schumacher College, Dartington, Devon, "Projects for Climate Change"
2007 – University of Western Australia Extension – Community Builders Sustainability Initiative "Dragon Dreaming" (Winter Program)
2008 – University of Notre Dame – Course Controller, Lecturer and Tutor for the Arts and Sciences Course "Understanding Sustainable Development Practices"
2008 – Guest Lecturer "Sustainability Ethics" Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy, Murdoch University.

Other Relevant Experience

I am currently engaged in supporting Ecologically Sustainable Community Economic Development (CED) aiming at economic resilience, social vitality, political capability and environmental enhancement, through



providing training, consultancy and support to individuals and groups working in this field, currently working from a base in southern Germany. In the past I have been coordinator of a Small Town Economic Planning, giving grants to community based organisations in Western Australia wishing to adopt CED based approaches. I recently was involved in producing a series of case studies on best practice for CED in Western Australia. I am currently working with Communities interested in CommunityWise Auditing, giving local people an understanding of the development of social, economic and financial capital. I was also responsible for writing and publishing the internationally renowned LETSYSTEMS Training Pack, and has been involved in assisting over 43 LETSystems, as well as being involved as a key organiser and speaker at conferences in Australia and New Zealand.

I have worked in the area of integrated rural and regional sustainable development, community development and community education in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Europe over the last 36 years. For 11 years I worked overseas. During this time I worked as a researcher for a British Ministry of Overseas Development Project in English Speaking Africa, (co-author with Hugh and Colette Hawes of the book "Curriculum and Reality in African Primary Schools"), at ILO in Geneva and UNESCO in Paris, with the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture (BP3K). From 1980-83 I worked as Non Formal (Community) Education Coordinator in a World Bank funded Integrated Rural Development Program in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea, where I was also employed by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, advising the Papua New Guinean government on its 2nd Five Year Development Plan. I have a wide experience of rural areas in Western Australia, and has been involved in a number of projects including the establishment of Business Enterprise Centres, Housing Cooperatives, Telecentres, the Community Enterprise Development Association and the Australian Association for Sustainable Communities.

I have been involved in community building and environmental activism both personally and professionally at different levels including teaching: previously at University of Western Australia, Edith Cowan University and Curtin University, in both Lecturing, Tutoring and Guest Lecturing roles and in a variety of formal and informal settings around the world (see above)

training and consultancy: for the Department of Community Services, the Department of State Development and for youth, women's, community building and environmental action programs in Australia and overseas.

community building and environmental action practice with non-government organisations in association with a range of government and other agencies

administration and management: having been involved as manager, director and chairman of a number of organisations in this field.

consultancies with many other enterprises bodies and organisations (eg. Ministry for Planning, Department of Resource Development, Petroleum Industry Council etc).

In the period from 1983 to 1986 I was Executive Officer for the Australian Association for Sustainable Communities (AASC Western Australian Branch), working with 36 groups interested in that time with Eco-Village Development. During this time I had authored two books "Moving into the Country in Multiple Occupancy Communities" and "Rural Resettlement: Options and Issues". With Dr Patricia Sherwood of Edith Cowan University, I also worked on producing a video on Eco Village Multiple Occupancy Projects in WA, and produced quarterly newsletters for the AASC. In that time I worked closely with Mr Ian Glew for the preparation of a policy on Multiple Occupancy of Rural Land, passed by the State Planning Commission in May 1985 as Policy Paper No 15. During this time I also worked with Homeswest for the First Fremantle Housing Cooperative, and Boranup Community, the first legal Multiple Occupancy in Western Australia. I have also been the co-producer of the Video "Sickness Country", looking at the plight of Aboriginal (and other) peoples produced by the Uranium Industry in Australia and have produced many TV broadcasts and training programs in Community Development.

I am a frequent keynote or guest speaker at numerous conferences and international symposia ranging from such groups as the International Transplant Nurses Association to the New Zealand Green Dollar Conference.

My current interests include approaches that integrate personal growth and empowerment, community building, community economics and environmental action within the new paradigm of "deep ecology" and have written and published widely in many fields.



Personal Details

Date of Birth – 9th February 1949

Citizenship – Australian

Languages: I speak fluent French, and neo-Melanesian tok pisin, and am currently learning German and am conversant in Bahasa Indonesia

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