

Down To Earth ConFest at Walwa Heal Thyself - Heal Thy Planet



29th DECEMBER 1990 to 2nd JANUARY 1991

This handout is designed to inform you of the changes to ConFest and to encourage participation. The energy, money and recycled paper used in its production are only justified if you use it and are informed by it. Feedback about the handout or ConFest in general is welcome.

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WALWA MUD PEOPLE.

CHRIS WATKINS. 1990.

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Welcome to ConFest!

In welcoming each other to Walwa for the third time we are participating in a process which began last year when we were asked what we wanted ConFest to be. The opinions that were voiced before, during and after last ConFest have been used to set up a festival which should be quite different from any of its predecessors.

ConFest is not all things to all people. We each have a distinct and personal view of what ConFest is about and what we wish to contribute to and take from it. It is this diversity, together with the freedom it allows us to choose our own paths, which makes ConFest unique.

To this extent the fabric of ConFest remains as it always was. When you read George's history of D.T.E. you will gain an impression of the immense impact the early ConFests had on the lives of many of those who attended them. A number of people left their previous lives behind and have never turned back.

Set, as they were, against the political turmoil of the mid '70s and the increasing energy of the "counter-culture", both in Australia and overseas, the Cotter and Bredbo ConFests had a singular powerful energy. By today's standards they were very large. They made strong statements about egalitarianism, freedom and the need to change ourselves, our culture and our attitude to our environment.

Unfortunately such festivals as these could not be sustained. Despite their strong creative energy they were uneconomic and difficult to service. Above all, the crowds attracted to such a populist event were bound to disperse.

In the fifteen years since Cotter, and particularly in the ten years since D.T.E. (Vic) ran its first large festival at Glenlyon, ConFest has gradually but constantly changed. It is now economically viable, it leases equipment rather than borrowing it (at large cost to generous people), it has a well regulated market and services and D.T.E. (Vic.) has a legal structure and assets.

Why change a winning formula? Simple. ConFest cannot be justified on economic or organisational grounds alone. The messages given during the last year are quite clear. ConFest should not be consumerist, wasteful of resources or harmful to individuals. It should be creative and supportive towards its people and our environment.

It is not enough, however, simply to want change. Any changes made must be practicable, affordable and ethically sound. They must also be supported by most, if not all, of our community rather than imposed on them.

In terms of services, therefore, this is a very different ConFest. There are a low energy, solar based power system, facilities for sorting garbage, a decentralised market, entertainment areas without loud amplifiers and residential villages with shade tunnels and other services.



The physical changes, however, are only part of the equation. It will be more difficult to change our behaviour and our use of the resources provided. We must remind ourselves and each other to turn off taps and lights, to reject packaging on what we bring to the site, to sort our rubbish and to be considerate of each other.

Pages 2 and 3 of the handout cover behaviour at ConFest. This is important information which affects us all and which can, if it is viewed positively, make a great difference to the harmony of the festival.

The rest of the handout covers a number of ways to participate in and improve this ConFest for all of us. If we attended ConFest last year, whether we voiced an opinion or not, we are each part of the process of change. Let's ensure that it is a creative and fulfilling exercise which provides a basis for future festivals.

To start this process perhaps we need to communicate more. By attending **Morning Sharing each morning at 9.00 am** we may make it the focal point of ConFest, as it has been in the past.

If we wish to contribute to the further development of ConFest there is a **meeting in the Community Tent** on the afternoon of New Years Day entitled **Down To Earth - Background and Future.**

Lets meet there.

OUR AGREEMENTS/SAFETY ON SITE.

Over the years the ConFest Community has developed a set of agreements about its conduct on site. To gain use of the site, agreements have been made on our behalf with The Department of Conservation and Environment, The Shire of Tallangatta and other organisations.



These agreements include observation of fire and other regulations and the care of our environment. Don't damage trees or regeneration zones or wash with soap in the river. If you drive on site, use the tracks. Firewood, showers and site transport are provided.

Other agreements concern our health and safety and further environmental issues. They are self imposed and include the No Pets and No Disposables policies.

The third type of agreement is about how we live together and covers matters such as late night noise, considering each other's needs and exercising collective responsibility for our behaviour on site.

The bottom line is self-regulation. If we all behave responsibly nobody will be needed to "enforce" the "Rules".

SECURITY - ANOTHER WORD FOR HARMONY.

About the most positive thing that can occur at ConFest is a forum which allows people to feel secure. Once people feel secure they can let down the defences so many people find they need to survive in our 'normal' society. It is these defences against invasion by other people which prevent us from learning much from each other. While these defences are in place the harmony needed for us to openly interact is blocked.

For a society to live in harmony all people in it need to be equal and must respect each other's right to be. If this happens there is no need for rules, there is no need for 'security'. Unfortunately we enter ConFest from a society which is rife with inequalities. Even though the thought is there, it is difficult to enter ConFest in a state which will allow this harmony. The role of security, therefore, is to mediate and help people find the place where they can live together in Harmony.

THE FOLLOWING AVENUES MAY BE USED IN RESOLVING CONFLICTS WHICH ARISE.

1. The parties to the conflict resolve the problem themselves.
2. They seek advice or assistance from their immediate community in resolving the problem.
3. They seek advice or assistance from the people doing security in resolving the problem

If all these steps fail to bring resolution the people taking responsibility for security may need to take action which, in extreme circumstances, may include expulsion of one or all parties from the site. This would generally occur only where people are not prepared to modify behaviour which is having a severe affect on the harmony of the group.

In this way the primary responsibility for security falls on the ConFest community but in a situation where someone doesn't feel able to resolve a problem or cannot get acceptable assistance from the community there will be security people available to assist.

SURVIVAL ON SITE.

FIRST AID.

St John Ambulance are not on site. The First Aid Tent is located next to Admin with qualified first aiders. If the tent is not staffed assistance is available from Admin, Front Gate or anyone with a radio. There is an "emergency help button" to press at Admin for late night, life threatening emergencies.

Would Doctors, Nurses or first aiders who can help please leave your names at the First Aid Tent or Admin.

HEALTH SERVICES AT WALWA. FROM THE WALWA HOSPITAL COMMITTEE.

Welcome to ConFest and Walwa, but would you please remember that the Walwa Bush Nursing Hospital is a Private Hospital. As Governments don't provide hospitals in the bush for we political insignificants we have to do it ourselves. This means that if you go to hospital, even for out-patient treatment, YOU PAY. We don't like it either, but that's the only way we can operate.

So remember - NO FREE HOSPITAL AT WALWA. Medical attention is available - bring your Medicare card.

EMERGENCIES.

Emergencies are not handled by consensus! In an emergency we will all be directed by a Down To Earth representative until authority is taken by a C&E Ranger, Police or a member of the C.F. A. If you hear a siren move off the track and keep an eye out for others who may need assistance.

In a FIRE emergency put on non flammable and substantial clothes and footwear, if you can reach them safely, and leave the area of the fire in an orderly fashion. Make sure everyone clears the area. Do not fight fire unless you are properly clad and do not put yourself at risk. Do not try to drive vehicles during an emergency unless directed to do so!

If EVACUATION is required move to the "fire assembly area" marked on the site map. Keep an eye out for kids or others who may need assistance.

FIRE.

Fires are to be lit only in authorised fire pits and can not be lit during total fire ban days or when there is wind. They should be used only for cooking and must not be left unattended. Use only the firewood provided. Please don't damage trees!

CAR PARKING.

There is plenty of parking outside the site. Please use it. There is site transport so please drop your luggage at the front gate and then park your car.

There is a 'night tent' at the front gate for late arrivals who should use it for the night, and park their cars in the 'night car park' beside the gate.

If it is raining and you don't want to transfer your gear to site vehicle please either use the 'night tent' or wait

VEHICLES AS SHELTER.

If you use your vehicle to sleep in you may take it on site as long as you park it in a designated area, you don't drive it around the site, and you drive it out ONLY when you are leaving site for the final time.

If you drive your vehicle out for ANY REASON you will need to buy another full price ticket to get it back on site.

People with disabilities are able to drive on site. Their cars will be clearly marked on front and back windows.

DRINKING WATER.

Drinking water has been trucked in this year. Please don't waste it.

Water at the showers and in some other areas (there are notices) has been pumped by solar energy from the river. Please don't drink it or waste it.

FOOD.

Down To Earth is very proud of the no-disposable policy. This policy not only helps to save on garbage, energy and pollution but also helps to eliminate the abuse of our natural resources.

The ConFest food market is strictly no-disposable. When making purchases please supply your own cup, plate etc. Stall holders are encouraged to charge more for food and drinks, as well as a deposit, if they are required to supply crockery and utensils.

The Food Market is quite a distance from some camping areas so please remember to carry cup, plate etc with your money. Fresh dairy products, bread, ice and grocery items are available at 10.00 am daily in the Food Market.

Constructive suggestions are welcome.

POLICIES.

VILLAGE COMMUNITIES.

Services have been provided for RESIDENTIAL VILLAGES this year. By providing shade tunnels, toilets, water and fire pits to a number of areas the foundation has been laid for a greater sense of community.

These areas will have greater autonomy and self sufficiency and should contribute much to the atmosphere and cohesiveness of ConFest.

ALCOHOL, CIGARETTES AND DRUGS.

D.T.E. discourages the abuse of intoxicants or the use of illegal substances. While it is not appropriate that an event which encourages personal freedom and self management should be subject to prohibition it is equally unacceptable that people should be subjected to behaviour by others which oppresses them.

The Healing, Spiritual, Massage and Children's areas are to be alcohol, cigarette and drug free.

People who drink should do so in their camping areas and smokers should consider the environmental and social implications of their habit.

GARBAGE.

ConFest is not only exploring but living an alternative lifestyle. Along with privileges come responsibilities. After reducing, reusing, recycling, if anything is left, please sort garbage. This year there are garbage Compounds for the collection of garbage. The bins are marked for the collection of separated garbage. There are bins for:

1. compost - to be delivered daily to a local property,
2. aluminium cans and foil - for the local primary school,
3. glass - to be left at a separate area at Walwa tip for collection by the BottleOh,
4. plastic - to be taken back to Melbourne to be recycled at Smorgens (the less we have the better),
5. tins - they will end up in the tip unless a suggestion with an acceptable address is received,
6. paper and cardboard - to be used for starting camp fires or compost.

All used tampons and disposable nappies (shame on you!) please dispose of down the toilet. Remember that the plastic thrown down there has the bio-degradability rate of nuclear waste. What does one do with used condoms except giving them to mice for sleeping bags. Maybe they should go down the toilet too.

Please help anyone having trouble understanding the system. Please explain to children - not all of them can read. Any clothing, bags etc. found after ConFest that are judged not worthy of use, usually end up at the tip.

NO PETS.

We leave our pets at home because they can frighten children (and some adults), are a health risk and can be fatal to native fauna.

Please don't chain your pet outside the site or lock it in your car. It's not kind to the pet and worries the neighbours. The NO PETS policy is of long standing and is invariably advertised - no excuses please.

WORKING TOGETHER.

WHY WE DO IT.

With the exception of some services such as transport and garbage ConFest runs as a self-managed community providing its own energy. We all pay for our tickets and participate in running the festival.

Participating is easy. There are small tasks and large tasks. Pick one your size: Paper for dunnies or clean them, inspect pipes for leaks as you walk past, ask a lost looking person if you can help, meet people in your area, staff the Info Tent.

If you have time and need a job ask at info. The following are the most needed:

FRONT GATE.

If you enjoy meeting people, seeing who's there, great music jams, late nights chewing the fat the front gate is the place for you. Some great philosophers have been found (and lost) at the front gate.

This is the area ConFest needs people the most. People are needed 24hrs a day. Duties include welcoming people, exchanging pre-paid tickets and selling tickets, showing people where to leave their gear for on site transport, showing them to the car park, issue and accept pass-outs, and generally keep the gate people happy. Cashiers are also required.

Please volunteer for at least 2 hours each time. A plentiful supply of drinks is usually available up at the gate. A volunteer to co-ordinate supply of refreshments to the front gate is required as well. Please read the Gate Info sheet up at the front gate for full instructions.

SITE DRIVERS.

Need a license and patience but will meet lots of nice people and get to know the site.

CO-ORDINATORS.

Assist, relieve or replace a co-ordinator. The skills are easy to pick up but you probably have them already.

GARBAGE ATTENDANT.

If we want to conserve and recycle we need to sort the garbage. It's not glamorous but it can be fulfilling.



LEARNING AND SHARING.

WORKSHOPS.

The "Workshop Area" offers many opportunities. At any time of the day ConFesters can listen to, question, argue and share with each other their ideas, problems and skills.

We are a community with a diverse and deep range of ideas and skills. The formal workshop program is one way in which we can all benefit from this range. Even when there is the challenge of disagreement, much can be uncovered and learnt.

The program you will find inserted into this handout demonstrates this range: healing, politics, dance and movement, survival skills and massage. The program will be reproduced on huge noticeboards outside the several marquees that make up the workshop area. A small blurb will be included on each workshop to give you a better idea of what approach is being taken. There will be some spaces, although not many, so if you would like to do something but haven't got into the program feel free to "fill in the spaces".

As some days are pretty closely timetabled to fit everyone in, please keep track of the time. If it's going well and you run out of time there are several things you can do;

1. Find an empty time in the program and do a continuation session.
2. Move to another area under a tree or a shade tunnel.

Overrunning time may have a chain reaction that will disrupt the whole program.

The "workshops area" is not the only place where workshops and displays will be held. Many of the villages will have their own program. Childrens, Healing and Craft Villages have an outline program already.

Individual groups are also planning specific sessions. A number of workshops will probably come spontaneously, ignited by other issues, events, or by individual desire to share with each other.

A couple of other huge noticeboards will be available to direct ConFesters to these events. So find a topic, a time, and a shade area, put up your notice, and away we go.

Workshops, demonstrations and shared group activities, seem to have taken a higher profile in this years Confest. This emphasis is in tune with the flight from consumerism towards mutual sharing and self reliance.

We can do it for each other. Challenge inform and entertain.

HEAL THY SELF... THY PLANET.

The Healing Arts have always been an integral part of ConFest. One of the underlying components of ConFest Healing is the sharing of skills so that we can all become more responsible for our health; focusing on alternative preventative healing instead of becoming beholden to 'traditional' medical professionals.

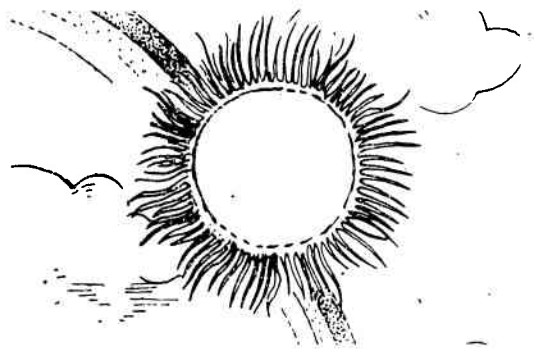
This year the HEALING VILLAGE will encompass Breath Meditation, Golden Light, Crystals, Hypnosis, Acupuncture, Cranial Sacral Therapy, the use of Herbs, Celtic Chakras, Belly Dancing as a healing ritual, and much more.

MASSAGE is always very popular at ConFest; you can learn massage at formal workshops or receive and/or give massage, all FOR NO COST. What a great change from the rampant commercialism of mainstream massage!

You will find that massage is one of the most popular ConFest activities, and that it will be going on in many areas apart from the traditional Massage Village. There will be formal workshops but the emphasis is on participation and the sharing of skills.

If you want to learn/give/receive massage here is your opportunity to do so FREELY amongst supportive, like-minded friends.

With Love and Light,
Stuart Kingsford,
Healing Village Co-ordinator.



SPIRITUAL.

The spiritual area at ConFest is a meeting place for numerous and diverse beliefs. If you wish to share your loving essence, by both giving and receiving, this is the place to be. Come and share freely with others on the good earth under sun and stars.

Please respect and tolerate the beliefs of others in our village.

John Gibbins.
Spiritual Village Co-ordinator.



mysterious tunnel
water play

children's camp

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND
(JOIN IN THE EARLY CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP)

Treasure Trail - discover the magic of nature
collect (wondrously) natural materials

Parents! Bring your talents, too, to this children's village. Camp here? Let's see how we can share our parenting creatively - child care is not available, So a happy, integrated group might allow you child-free workshop time during well supervised "sessions"

ARTISTS, Performers, helpers and participators all are needed and welcome

FESTIVAL DRAGON, PROCESSION COSTUME MASKS

"So, come by your parted ways that wind the wild wo
A ring of rocks, to mark our heath; A ring of children - all br

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



ARTS & CRAFTS TENT

painting, puppets, write a story, play, poem
 join the frog chorus
 follow the plect pipe

FABRIC PAINTING

make a scarf, skirt, top, hat
 decorate it

PUPPET THEATRE

PRESENTING:
 THE KIDS' FAMILY SHOW
 featuring @
 BIG MOMMA
 and the DIS
 APPEARING DAD

Parasol Totem Puppets

teepee shelters
 make and decorate

STORY TELLING, SINGING and SHARING CIRCLE

COSTUMES
 MASKS

FACE PAINTING

MUSIC
 DANCING

SINGING

Pecilia Wilkes 90

the wild world through, and make a ring around the blaze the way we used to do"
 children - all bright sparks - A ring of parents with arts & crafts, A ring of tents when day is done.
 'Around the Boree log' P.C. Hartigan

GEORGE SCHMIDT'S HISTORY OF DOWN TO EARTH. WHAT ON EARTH IS D.T.E. ON ABOUT?

Way back in the late sixties and early seventies there blew a wind through the land. A special, magic kind of wind which got into the skulls and blew away piles of cobwebs from those brains.

People started to question just about anything, any rule, any law. And it became truly exciting to live your life in those days. It still is, but in a different kind of way, it is now.

Anyways... the peoples talked about their excitement in the manner of songs and music. Maybe you remember your history lessons when in grade 3. So it was writ that there was a grand festival in a one horse dump called WOODSTOCK somewhere in the You-Ess-Offaa. They even made a video about it recently.

We here in OZ thought our Yankee cousins were on a good thing. But... we wanted a bit more than singing about our new experiences. We wanted a bit more than just schlepping around with a dopey smokey or a plate of golden mushies.

So, in 1973 a whole bunch of people from the Uni's in Sydney and their soul sisters and brothers organised a big festival in the rundown cow patch called NIMBIN. That started what is now known as the RAINBOW REGION 'cause many participants stayed on after the festival and their clothes looked like the true rainbow had come down. Not necessarily as clean and elusive, but sure looked like it. As a matter of fact it sort of became our 'uniform' to show the wrinklies that a new world had arrivin. The 'Age of Aquarius', man.

Round about 1975 we held the first of many meetings to follow up on the Nimbin experience. We thought that singing about a new society was not enough. It wasn't enough to dream about changing society as we knew it. Nor were dopey smokies and goldtop mushies going to bring about any changes, no matter how delightful such pastimes were.

We thought that, since our wrinklies had done things and made a balls-up of it, we could also do things, but do them better. Much better.

Like: no more murdering of innocent humans for the financial benefit of a few gun manufacturers; no more fat slob in stretch - limousines with cellular phones ripping us off; no more deformed human bodies because of greedy chemical manufacturers; no more stomping and pissing on the unemployed and other defenceless members of society; no more sexism.

Like: starting to express our feelings more openly; relating to people in a meaningful manner; becoming more caring socially; more loving; more supportive to each other and particularly to those of us who were 'damaged' in some way; compassionate; creative; saving our planet, the trees, the animals and the starving millions in Africa and Cambodia.

Like: learning more about our health; our planet's health; our society's structure. About our own habits and personalities, our sexuality and attitudes, about our souls and OHM, meditation and mantras and things.

To get there we were going to create a new society, starting with a sort of core group called DOWN TO EARTH.

And the way to get there, we thought that first of all we had to come together in a kind of caring, supportive environment. And so it came that the idea of CONFEST was born, coming from CONFERENCE and FESTIVAL. To play was to live and to live was to play. With an underlying seriousness and purposeful attitude.

So, at a ConFest, as we organised it, we had lots and lots of opportunities to do some learning. And like the Yin-Yang symbol we balanced the learning with lots and lots of play.

This way, without telling anybody what to do, to leave each other free to do our own numbers, a situation would be created where people had the chance to be free enough to make their own choices.

Not always easy. All of us have in ourselves parts that have been contaminated by the past - and that is bloody hard to change. For sure. But all of us have also in ourselves parts that - no matter how hidden at times - are bloody beautiful. All it needs is for a 'safe' situation to allow our hidden beauty to come out and let it grow or be shown.

The trick is not to worry about how much we have yet to learn. The trick is become aware of our barriers and to try to break them down. That's the trick.

Once the barriers are confronted and broken, the growth will commence quite naturally; quite organically. Very much the same as with a pot-bound plant, such as those horrendously vile things called bonsai.

Hopefully not, but you may feel like being a bonsai. Potentially beautiful but presently a caricature of your true self, your soul pot-bound by artificial restrictions. Break the container and you can grow to your fullest extent with the ONLY restrictions being those which are inherent in your place in the universe.

Meaning: if you would be destined to be a gorgeous rose bush you'd be not much taller than 6 to 10 feet maybe, while if you were destined to be a majestic grey gum you could become 80 to 100 feet tall. Both are superb in their own right.

Anyways... these last few paragraphs are there to give you a feeling about the philosophy of DOWN TO EARTH at the time. About trying to accept people as they are. About trying to develop the habit of taking responsibility for your own actions and not feel responsible for other peoples' actions. Not to feel depressed by constantly comparing yourself with others and then, almost as a matter of course, putting yourself down.

We became a family, united in our quest of things now known as the 'New Age'. And we called each other "brother" and "sister" and we felt we were a family. The various families organised their local activities such as setting up 'alternative schools' like the one in Perth called the 'Moontime School' and here in Melbourne the 'Open Mind School'. Special exhibitions such as the Melbourne Festival at The Universal Workshop and the First Annual Exhibition of Alternatives. Many workshops and practical training camps. Most of all that either originated at ConFests or were presented there for people to get to know about these activities.



We travelled far and wide to meet each other and create these ConFests. From as far as Perth we came together in places such as Terania Creek, Bangalow, Galston Gorge and Artarmon (Sydney), Queanbeyan, Camp Eureka and Earhaven (Melbourne), Adelaide and Berri.

So it came about that a number of these ConFests were held. Starting at COTTER just south of Canberra; BREDBO between Canberra and Cooma; BERRI in South Australia; four at GLENLYON near Daylesford; two at WANGARATTA; two previously here at WALWA; several in WEST AUSTRALIA; several small, intimate ones in QUEENSLAND: one at JACKIES MARSH, Tasmania; a rained out one in the RAINBOW REGION, N.S.W. also known as 'the almost ConFest at Wyaliba', and one at MOUNT OAK, it being the original site of the Bredbo ConFest. We are now looking at a good 18 (eighteen!!) ConFests.

I've been talking about D.T.E. and the things done. But what about the actual people? We came from all walks of society. It sounds so cliché and trite, but it was true. The accusation that D.T.E. is a middle class set, was not true in those days.

Since it is people who are D.T.E., and since we're talking about the history, i would like to mention some of the great people who made up the D.T.E. family. I have to restrict myself to mentioning only three people.

And one of them is Jane Hobson of Adelaide. Through her gentle but determined and superb guidance, the Berri ConFest became the success it was. This is where D.T.E. became an independent, co-operative set-up. This ConFest really deserves a few pages by its own in the records of D.T.E. And Much of that, we as a family owe to Jane Hobson.

The second is a self effacing pixie of a guy by the name of Dick Freeston. Dick still is the soul of Down To Earth. In a very soft, behind the screens sort of a way, Dick kept the Queensland branch of the D.T.E. family alive. You most probably will meet him at this ConFest. He embodies what i said before: 'To live is to play and to play is to live'.

And the third person is Peter White from Melbourne. To cut a very long - and possibly embarrassing - story short, but for Peter there would have been no more Down To Earth. His qualities of guidance and leadership are in the top five out of a million.

I personally feel positively enriched by having met and worked with these and the many unnamed people of D.T.E. and the beauty is that this process is still going on. The people who kept things going over the past 6 years are aware of the attitudes in society in relation to D.T.E. They're also less dependent on the charisma of a few individuals. More oriented towards co-operative support. How about meeting them sometime by - for instance - joining D.T.E.?

There is still a lot to be done when you think that the society as we have now could do with quite a few changes for the better. D.T.E. is not just a ConFest making organisation. We really try to alter some of the heavy duty commercialism crap in this society, the widening gap between rich and poor, the hardening in many people's attitudes towards their fellow humans.

And when i use the word 'WE' this means 'YOU' as well. Not just a bunch of unidentified characters somewhere in Flinders Lane.

Over the years it has been proven that the people in D.T.E. - and this could therefore be you also - can have an impact. And the only way to go about it is by changing yourself first. That's where its got to start, whether you like it or not. And D.T.E. is the safe place to start the changes.

Allow me to finish this yarn with a little story which i think typifies strongly what ConFest is all about. The 'essence' of a ConFest. The essence of 'change'. There are many such stories. There isn't space to tell them all. It doesn't matter, because you can find your own story too. But this one is real neat.

It happened at the first Wangaratta ConFest. Here they came, strolling along, this couple somewhere in their late fifties. Arm in arm. HE impeccably dressed, bespoke shoes, white knee length socks, creased shorts, designer open shirt. The picture of a contented, well to do bank manager or senior civil servant. SHE, but for a flattering sun hat, naked as the day she was born. BOTH superbly indifferent to the powerful and gorgeous statement they were making!

With people like these two - and many, many others - this world is a goddam beautiful place to live in. There is hope! That's life!

SOLAR POWERED CONFEST.

This year ConFest is powered by alternative energy. While the power produced this year is mainly solar we intend to monitor power use and conditions on site to plan for future festivals. If we can reduce reliance on electricity and put together an affordable and workable system it will be to the benefit of ConFest and our community. The following article is supplied by the Rainbow Power Company who have installed and will run the system.

The Rainbow Power Company is pleased to advise that the DTE ConFest is powered by renewable energy sources. No longer do festival goers have to put up with the constant noise, smell and pollution of diesel generators. This alternative power system will totally replace diesel generators used at the ConFest in previous years.

Some 6000 watts of solar panels will supply the ConFest needs while sunny conditions prevail.

This primary energy source will be backed up by steam produced from local firewood. 6000 amp hours of battery storage arranged under the solar arrays will then supply the power to the festival and meet the varying demands during each day. The battery power will be inverted and reticulated as a standard 240 volt supply.

This will be a positive demonstration and a real contribution towards a more environmentally conscious lifestyle.

ENERGY DEMANDS.

There will be some steps taken to keep the electrical energy requirements to a minimum. Two trailer sized cool rooms will be the biggest single energy consumer and Water Pumping the second largest demand.

In order to minimize the power demand for lighting each stall will be provided with high efficiency PL lights. A 13 watt PL lamp will provide as much light as a 75 watt incandescent globe. Using one 13 w compact flurescent lamp instead of a 75 w incandescent globe should reduce your electricity consumption by around 480 kWh over its lifetime (8000 burning hours). This works out as a saving of about \$58 at 12 cents per kWh, plus around 460 kg of CO₂ if your electricity is from a coal fired power station. Even given the apparently high purchase price of these lamps, they should pay for themselves in lower bills. If their use becomes widespread, they have the potential to reduce the demand for electricity in peak consumption periods and significantly reduce the amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere. Compared to a candle, a PL lamp emits 100 times more light, is about 1,333 times longer lived, and over its 10,000 hour lifetime, will produce the same amount of light as that from about 133,000 candles.

Every kilowatt hour you save of electricity generated by burning coal can reduce the the amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere by almost one kilogram.

COMMUNICATIONS.

As an alternative to other communication methods and boring old bull-horn announcements, the Rainbow Power Company is supplying a low-powered FM radio transmitter. This will broadcast music those wired with walkpersons or similar, well as permitting short "commercials" for workshop and housekeeping announcements.

Solar and Nuclear.

The allure of nuclear power is that small quantities of fuel can produce large quantities of energy. Cycled through fast breeder reactors (the most efficient nuclear energy), a single gram of uranium can produce 3,800 kWh of electricity. However, a uranium atom can only be fissioned once, whereas a silicon solar cell can absorb photons repeatedly and convert them to electricity. Over its lifetime in 15% efficient thin film PV solar cells, one gram of silicon produces 3,300 kWh of electricity. Thus gram for gram, silicon and uranium produce comparable amounts of electricity, and silicon is 5000 times more abundant in the earth's crust.

Source: World Resouces Institute.

DISPLAY AND WORKSHOPS.

As well as providing all the electrical power for the festival, the Rainbow Power Company will have a permanent display and will be holding a number of workshops on renewable energy technology and how it can be utilized in your own homes.

END OF CONFEST SALE.

Solar panels, Batteries, Inverters, and other equipment which are not purchased by the DTE Co-op will be on sale at bargain basement prices at the end of the festival.

Rainbow Power Co. Pty. Ltd.

70 Cullin St.
Nimbin, NSW 2480.
Ph (066) 89 1430.
Fax (066) 89 1109.



THE MUTOID WASTE CO.

Formed in 1984 the Mutoid Waste Company is a group of travelling artists, sculptors, musicians and performers. Initially their sculptures, built entirely from society's waste, formed the backdrop for large 'underground' warehouse partys offering something akin to a Mad Max film set in which to dance. The birth of the Zombie Beat at Glastonbury Festival 1987 saw the first mass participation drumming marathon, ie: 800 people for twelve hours over the summer solstice.

Two years ago, the group, having 'run out of road' in England, decided to embark on a European tour taking in Amsterdam, Berlin (6 weeks before the wall came down), Paris, Barcelona, and Milan.

Now some members of the group presently in Australia feel that ConFest offers the right combination of people and consciousness to appreciate the notion of active recycling of waste on a creative level.

StoneHenge - CarHenge - AiroplaneHenge - giant sundials. . . whatever happens your view of waste will be forever mutated.

Hear the word.



MUTANT ROBOT.

BERLIN WALL - 20 FEET.

OTHER FEATURES.

A great deal of attention has been paid this year to the type of amenities we have at ConFest and the impact they have on our relationships with each other and on our environment.

The following areas have changed for several reasons and an explanation of the factors affecting them is appropriate.

ENTERTAINMENT.

Stages at previous ConFests have been big budget items. They have used paid entertainers or allocated free tickets, used lots of power, have alienated and annoyed a large part of the site population and allegedly restricted avenues of spontaneous music which previously were a feature of ConFest.

Although many creative and exciting things have come from the stage it can be clearly seen that there was a need to examine its function along with the noise nuisances which cropped up last year.

Several smaller and lower entertainment areas with adequate lighting and low level amplification have been planned. This should reduce noise and encourage 'home grown' self entertainment.

Lets hope we can get an accoustic bush band happening for New Year's Eve.

THE CRAFT MARKET.

The comment last year was that it was less craft and more market. It was seen as consumerist and obtrusive with too many vehicles.

It is difficult to change an amorphous area like the Craft Market but the following steps have been taken.

Co-ordination of the area has been placed in the hands of a group from Warren N.S.W. who are attempting to give it a community focus and promote demonstration and teaching craft activities.

Prices have been set to encourage hand made goods and discourage consumerism and commercialism.

Stall-holders who give regular workshops and demonstrations of their arts are not charged a site fee at all.

THE CO-OPERATIVE.

WHAT IT IS.

Down To Earth (Vic.) Co-operative Society Limited is a Victorian registered Co-operative Society. It operates in a much more fluid fashion than most such societies, however. Its meetings are open and it operates by consensus for most purposes.

Its primary purpose, at this time, is running ConFest, and it spends most of the year doing so.

As you will see from the article on finance it makes other contributions to our society but does not actively involve in other areas than ConFest.

D.T.E. NEWS.

D.T.E. publishes a newsletter a number of times a year in two formats. The first is a twice yearly (early and mid-year) issue which is designed to discuss and promote ConFest and which is sent to all addresses on our database (possibly including yours).

The second is sent three or four times a year to people who have a greater level of interest in the development of ConFest .

The newsletter is free at this time and you can arrange to receive it at Admin.



MEMBERSHIP.

You become a D.T.E. member by purchasing 5 shares (\$10.00) and filling in a share application which you can also get from Admin

Members have received a discount on tickets at this festival (because they attract a tax advantage) and this may continue.

D.T.E. is actively seeking members at this time. Your support will be appreciated.

FINANCE.

What D.T.E. does with the money is always an interesting topic. There is no mystery about it. As an incorporated organisation the Co-op is subject to audit every year so its finances are a matter of public record.

The Co-op has one major source of finance - ConFest. In budgeting for ConFest it aims to cover the costs of the festival and its running costs for the year (rent, newsletters and other office costs), and put some funds aside for years without ConFests or where disaster intervenes.

It also holds assets such as computers, communications gear and festival equipment which it makes available at little or no cost to other (mainly conservation) groups such as East Gippsland Coalition, Conservation Council of Victoria and Mount Oak Community.

It makes its office space available to other groups when there is a need, and has been known to lend seeding finance to launch festivals under appropriate conditions.

The following budget reflects ConFest costs only. When running costs for the year are added gross annual expenditure for the current financial year will be in excess of \$80,000.00.

WALWA 1991 - PROPOSED BUDGET.

	\$
EQUIPMENT HIRE	9,500
SITE GENERAL	11,200
SITE SUNDRY EXPENSES	7,000
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY	20,000
COMMUNICATIONS	3,000
COMMUNITY P.R. COSTS	4,000
INSURANCE	1,000
TRANSPORT	2,100
PUBLICITY	4,500
SUNDRY EXPENSES	700
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	63,000
PROJECTED INCOME	80,000

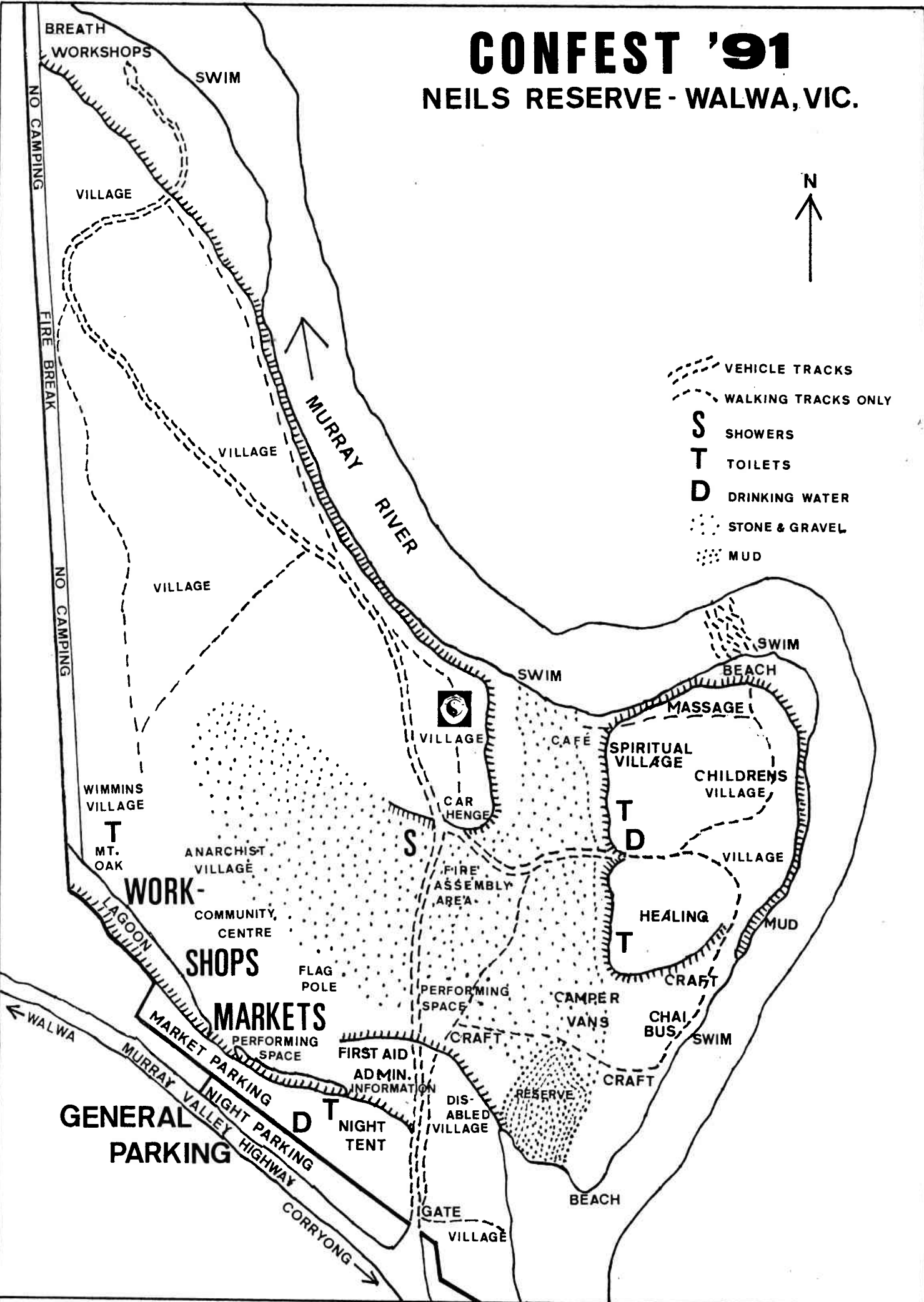
If you want a more detailed picture of ConFest expenditure please ask at Admin. If you want to influence expenditure at future ConFests you are welcome to meetings during the year or can become a shareholder.

CONFEST '91

NEILS RESERVE - WALWA, VIC.



-  VEHICLE TRACKS
-  WALKING TRACKS ONLY
- S** SHOWERS
- T** TOILETS
- D** DRINKING WATER
-  STONE & GRAVEL
-  MUD



BREATH WORKSHOPS

NO CAMPING

FIRE BREAK

NO CAMPING

NO CAMPING

WALWA

MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY

CORRYONG

VILLAGE

SWIM

MURRAY RIVER

VILLAGE

VILLAGE

WIMMINGS VILLAGE

T
MT. OAK

ANARCHIST VILLAGE

WORK - SHOPS

COMMUNITY CENTRE

MARKETS

PERFORMING SPACE

FLAG POLE

FIRST AID

ADMIN. INFORMATION

NIGHT TENT

DISABLED VILLAGE

GATE

VILLAGE



VILLAGE

CAR HENGE

FIRE ASSEMBLY AREA

PERFORMING SPACE

CRAFT

CAMPER VANS

CHAIBUS

RESERVE

BEACH

SWIM

SWIM

BEACH

MASSAGE

SPIRITUAL VILLAGE

CHILDRENS VILLAGE

T

D

VILLAGE

HEALING

T

CRAFT

MUD

SWIM