

The Co-operative Difference

Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre

Developing Research Agendas





The Wine Society
The Wine club you can Trust



The Mercury Centre
Co-operative





Co-operative Principles

- . Voluntary and Open Membership
- . Democratic Member Control
- . Member Economic Participation
- . Autonomy and Independence
- . Education, Training and Information
- . Cooperation Among Co-operatives
- . Concern for Community



MALENY (1..)

- Food
 - Maple Street Cooperative (1979);
- Money
 - Maleny Credit Union (1984)
 - LETSystem (1987);
- Land-sharing
 - Manduka Cooperative (1978)
 - Crystal Waters Permaculture Village (1986)
 - Prout Cooperative (1989)
 - Cedarton Foresters (1991);



MALENY (2..)

- Environment

- Barung Landcare (1991)
- Catchment Care Group (1998)
- Green Hills Fund (2000);

- Education

- Ananda Marga River School (1992)
- Booroobin Learning Centre (1995)
- Flexi-school (1999)
- Ghandi School (2002);



MALENY (3..)

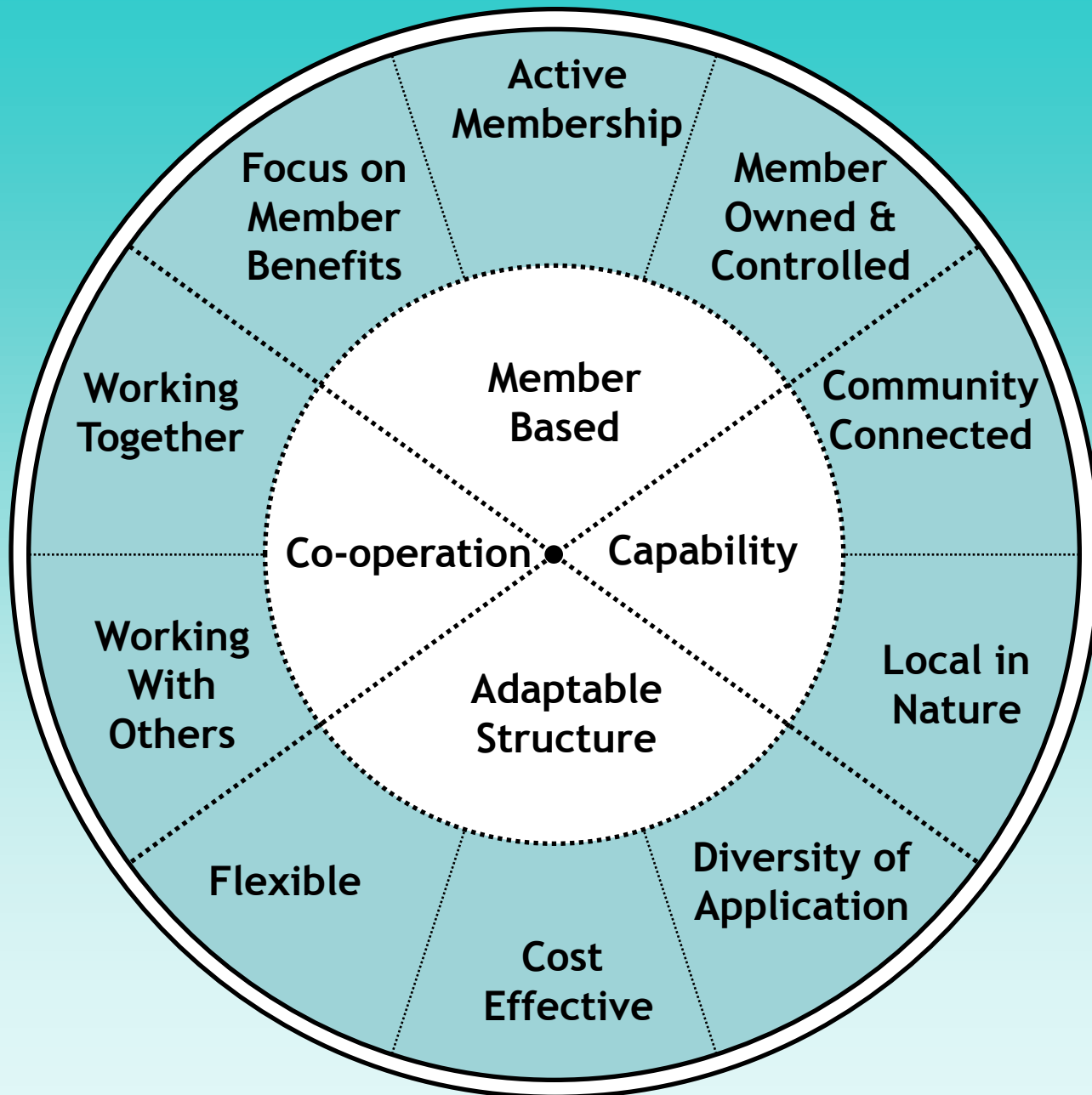
- Employment
 - MENA (1991)
 - LEED (1997)
 - HBC (2004);
- Culture
 - Peace of Green (1992)
 - Maleny Film Society (1993)
 - Waroo Arts (1994)
 - Maleny Cooperative Club (1994)
 - Spectrum (now COMA) (2001)
 - Maleny Youth Theatre Ensemble (2005);



MALENY (..4)

- Social Welfare
 - Neighbourhood Centre (1997)
 - FACE (1998);
- Media
 - The Range News (1984)
 - Hinterland FM Radio (2000).
- Others
 - Wastebusters Cooperative (1989)
 - Black Possum Publishing (1992)
 - Mountain Fare (1989).





The Co-operative Circle





- Wesbuilders Co-operative
- Formed November 2004 with 13 members
- Membership now above 70
- Small to medium sized residential builders operating in Western Australia
- “to deliver benefits to members through preferred supplier agreements that focus on the trilogy of - Price - Quality - Service”



ACUMA BUYING

- ACUMA Buying Co-operative Limited
- Formed 1999
- 66 Members on over 120 campuses nationally.
- “The national collaborative enterprise for campus organisations”
- Securing best possible prices, discounts and terms of sale on goods and services for Members





Association to Resource Co-operative Housing

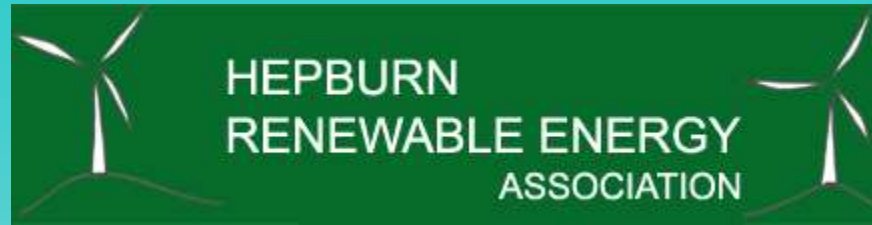
- Peak resourcing agency for Housing Co-operatives in NSW (about 50 in NSW)
- Assists interested groups of people state-wide to plan, develop and establish housing co-operatives.
- Also representation, advocacy, networking, education and training, program and policy development, information provision, planning and project development on behalf of NSW co-operatives.



Associazione Puglia (NSW) Co-operative

- Formed in 1974 as an Association
- Members from Italian-Australian community
- Members: 200 shareholding; about 2,000 non-shareholding
- Owns and operates a 300m² cultural and community centre





- Hepburn Community Wind Park Co-operative
- Formation meeting held 18 July 2007
- Will own and operate Hepburn Community Wind Park
- 2 wind turbines of 2 MW
- Will serve about 2,500 homes
- CO2 savings of 14,000 tonnes p.a.





Supermarket



Hardware



Department Store



Carpet Court



Betta Electrical

The Barossa Community Co-operative Store (Nuriootpa) Ltd



Co-operatives in Australia

antique collectors; artists; arts & crafts; barristers' services; beef producers; bus and coaches; bush foods and products; bush land regeneration; cane growers; carriers'; coffee growers; community arts centres; community clubs; community food buying; community radio; community services; dairy; education & training; egg producers; employment services; energy; estate agents; family day care centres; fish producers; fruit producers; galleries; gold; golf clubs; gourmet meats; hairdresser buying; harvesting; herbs and spices; historical activities; housing tenants; kindergartens; libraries; liquor supply; marinas; marketing; meals-on-wheels; meat producers; media; medical services; music; native fish; native hardwood; newsagents; olives; packaging; permaculture; pet care; pre school; professional services; publishing; railways; recycling; rural education; sailing clubs; saw-millers; ski lodges; sugar milling; taxis; transport and haulage; water supply; wine consumers; winemakers; women's refuges; wood turners; labour supply; and youth theatre.





Nundah Community Enterprises Co-operative

What a job at NCEC provides its workers

- Income, above their pension
- A feeling of usefulness and value, increasing self esteem
- Relationships with other workers and supervisors
- Relationships with people in the community
- Self confidence, knowing they can do a job well
- Job security, workers are wanted and appreciated





Credit Unions

- Financial co-operatives are known in Australia as credit unions.
- In May 2007 there were 141 Australian credit unions that hold more than \$40 billion in assets while providing personal banking services to 3.6 million members



Community Buyouts through Co-operatives

- Hospital
 - Hobson Bay, Vic
 - Clifton, Qld
 - Yeovil, NSW
- Store
 - Culgoa, Vic
 - Lexton, Vic
 - Walbundrie, NSW
- Petrol Station
 - Kaniva, Vic
- Hotel
 - Yinnar, Vic
 - Theodore Qld
 - Devinish, Vic
 - Hopetoun, Vic
 - Red Cliffs, Vic



Social Capital

“We are the trustees for assets which others before us created, to which we therefore have no moral entitlement and from which others after us are entitled to benefit no less than ourselves.”

Race Mathews



CCC eNews

Community Cooperative Connections

Published by the Centre for Australian Community Organisations and Management (CACOM)



Co-operatives and Community Capacity Building

The only thing that will redeem mankind is
cooperation.

- Bertrand Russell



Barriers to Co-operative Development

- Government indifference - not a fertile ground for co-operative development
- Lack of co-operative research
- BUT - Co-operatives still flourishing



NSW Registry Support

Support from NSW Registry of Co-operatives and Associations

- Co-operative Development Fund
- CCC eNews Funding
(Community Co-operative Connections)
- CARDS Program



Co-operative Advocacy

- Strong internationally
- Why not in Australia?



What International Co-operative Thinkers Say



What is planned for 2008?

Living Co-operatively Consortium

- UTS
 - Cosmopolitan Civil Society Research Centre
 - Centre for Australian Community Organisations and Management
- Marrickville Council
- Parramatta City Council
- The Association to Resource Co-operative Housing (ARCH)
- The Mercury Centre Co-operative
- Co-operative Federation of NSW



Issues



Demutualisation

- Happening in most mutuals and some large co-operatives (e.g. Dairy Farmers & Ricegrowers)
- Not a trend overseas
- Why the difference?



Government Support

- Not a priority at State government level
- Co-operatives seen as anti-competitive at Federal level
- Taxation treatment and International Accounting Standards - a problem



Cohesion in the sector

- International linkages weak
- Lack of grassroots understanding and support for linkages at all levels
- Low commitment to co-operation among co-operatives



Research and Learning

- Defunding of ACCORD
- No replacement national research body
- Lack of academic focus on co-operatives
- No training or learning culture in sector
- Many new types of co-operative enterprises overseas - why not here?



Communications and Media

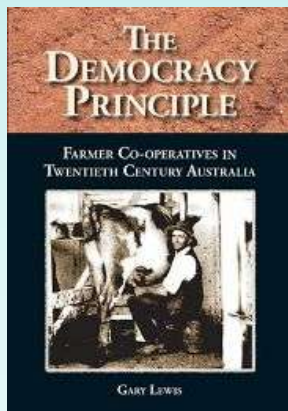
- CCC eNews (with UTS support) is only co-operative focussed national platform
- What we do is newsworthy but not the co-operative brand
- There is no national brand



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UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

The Mercury Centre Co-operative

