

# Byron Shire Symposium Network

**An experiment in community organisation and communication.**

Ask the community to either use the [www.upworldgov.org](http://www.upworldgov.org) technology or another comparable technology, or to create a unique set of criteria for making a community decision.

If a unique set of criteria is required, when all criteria have been met a decision can be made that will be the “Will of the People.”

**5 April 2009 to 31 December 2009**

Initiated and monitored by:

**Sustainability Research Institute**

# BYRON SHIRE SYMPOSIUM NETWORK

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# Section 1

## The Experiment

### Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) 'Will of the People Project'

#### Overview of research and objectives

Many people around the globe are discussing the possibility of introducing and implementing a world government. By this time it should be obvious that the creation of a world government is inevitable; it's just a matter of which kind. It will either be created by the current corporate hierarchical structure, or it will be based upon the 'Will of the People.'

Keeping in mind the real possibility of failure if the same methodology of unsuccessful past efforts is used again, it may be reasonable to assume that if a different outcome (a potentially positive one) is desired, a different methodology is also required.

Therefore, since a top-down hierarchical structure and methodology have been used in the past, SRI feels that the obvious preferred methodology this time around would be centered in grass-roots development. This methodology is based upon 'prior unity' as defined by Adi Da and allows everybody all at once to participate fully, freely and positively in developing the 'will of the People'

SRI is engaged in this research project in order to determine how it will be possible to organize a community to create and project a unified voice on any specific community concern. Clearly, when a community accomplishes this its members, collectively, have successfully created and projected the 'will of the People.'

Although it's the community's responsibility to search, find and decide on a decision-making method, SRI would be amiss if it didn't initially make any community aware of an already well known on-line technology, [www.UPworldgov.org](http://www.UPworldgov.org). This technology was specifically established for the purpose of enabling the will of the People to be created and projected, as well as having the ultimate goal of creating a world government. It is neutral since, although laying out the knowledge of the Republican Form of government (one that is truly of, by, to, for and from the People) and the blue print for creating one, communities are not obligated to fully engage and activate one. In other words, regardless as to what form of government the People of any geo-political area in the world have, they have access to the technology that can be used to create and project the 'will of the People' whenever such projection is required.

SRI wishes to express its support for the Republican Form of government since this is, truly, the foundational cornerstone for the 'will of the People.' For a more defined explanation of SRI's perceptions of the need to support the 'Republican Form' efforts of [www.UPworldgov.org](http://www.UPworldgov.org) see '**Sustainability Research Institute and United People Trust come together in collaboration**' attached and the '**Bait and Switch Crime**' that may be found via a link on the home page of the UP site.

Hence, since there is knowledge of the existence of at least one technology available, SRI has concluded that the only thing that is now 'researchable' is: "How is it possible to introduce this

methodology to a community that has had no prior knowledge of or experience in it and enable them to successfully create and project their collective will?" This is the focus and objective of SRI's '**Will of the People Project.**' Hopefully, once this search is successful, the developed methodology will be able to be used in communities around the globe to help accomplish the goal of a world government of, by, to, for and from the People.

SRI also recognizes that it is the first to execute such an experiment. It simply has not been done before anywhere in the world. Therefore, SRI is very much aware that the creation of this experiment and its execution will be the template that will be used by many more communities in the future.

## **Phases of Research:**

### **Phase One: Preparation**

Find, or help the community select one of its members as a community coordinator – one that has been selected by the community from a grass roots process. Seek cooperation from this community coordinator to help implement this experiment in the community.

Find one or more venues to facilitate community Symposiums, (depending on community size) that will accommodate the on-going processes included in this experiment. Up to this time the Byron Bay Community & Cultural Centre is providing their venue pro bono for the Symposiums on the Byron Market day - first Sunday of each month; and the Byron Shire Council is providing the new Mullumbimby Civic Hall for the Mullum market day on the third Saturday of each month (with just several exceptions due to prior bookings) for community non-profit rate of \$125.00 per event.

### **Phase Two: Creating Awareness**

The first thing to remember is that a community decision-making method does not already exist. Therefore there are a couple of preliminary approaches to the community in which we need to seek the community's feedback as to how to properly execute these first few approaches.

Community etiquette is no different from the general etiquette of which many of us are already very much aware. Just as one would approach another individual and ask for his or her attention, so do we approach the community. We need to ask for the community's attention. Seeking the assistance of a company that can provide a large ticket item to be raffled off at the end of a successful experiment may be useful. We will work with the community to determine the conditions that must be met in order to eventually realize that we do, in fact, have the community's attention. Once we have the community's attention, we need to ask the community members if they would like to search, find and select a decision-making method that will enable them to make community-wide decisions that can be defined as the "Will of the People." We need to work with the community in determining the conditions that will be required by the community to determine the formal community's response to that question.

If the community's answer is yes, we may assist the community in searching, finding and selecting a decision-making method. We will also assist the community in determining the conditions required for a specific decision-making method to be selected as the "approved method for determining the

Will of the People.” To this end, we may suggest the use of the [www.upworldgov.org](http://www.upworldgov.org) technology for the community to make this decision.

Once a proper venue is chosen, preferably on a local market day so that many community members are in the town centre already, it is important to have an ‘awareness’ strategy in place so that the community members will be gradually and steadily introduced to a new addition to community life. Keeping in mind that the People have traditionally been disconnected from world government development and either have no knowledge of it or have been negatively influenced by the corporate structure’s efforts thus far, creating a world government is most likely not to be on the forefront of most people’s minds initially. Therefore, care must be taken to introduce the concept gradually - most likely with no mention at the very beginning. The People’s level of awareness of the Community Symposiums will be measured by community feed back and attendance at the Symposiums so as to track the effectiveness of various tools used to increase that awareness.

- a. Local government involvement of any kind should be highly encouraged through this entire process. A statement of support in the initial media release should be sought.
- b. Assure that cooperating partners are able to provide the required liability insurance policy needed to protect both the Symposium organizer and venue.
- c. Media Release to be distributed to local media approximately two months prior to the first Symposium (including request for local non-profit organisations to start registering for participation). Thereafter, media releases to be issued one week before each subsequent monthly Symposium containing all participating organizations and other associate activities for that up-coming Symposium.
  - a. Advertisements for the Symposiums should display all registered participating organisations and associated activities for at least one week in advance - public notices via the Postal Service and/or emails.
    - i. Overcome “junk mail” blocks by claiming “Educational materia”l and/or “charitable status” in Section 1.3 of the Postal Service’s Service Guide 2008
  - b. To begin with reservations will be first come first served with a maximum of 20 organisations for each Symposium. After that the newest applicants will take priority followed by those organisations that have the longest absentee period.
  - c. The community may collectively make and alter rules for the Symposiums on the Byron Shire level of the [www.upworldgov.org](http://www.upworldgov.org) site.
- d. Local Radio and TV interviews in various shows at various times during the two months prior to the first Symposium.
- e. Formal introduction and invitation sent to as many community mailing lists as possible.
- f. Professionally produced posters to be distributed and displayed in all willing local businesses and stall-holders at the markets - including Post Offices.
- g. Listing in as many community calendars as possible on a monthly basis – starting with one month prior to first Symposium.
- h. Professionally designed and printed leaflets to be distributed around the market place during market day – starting one month prior to the opening of the community Symposium. Byron New Energy Co-operative may help in this process (provide them with a free space at the market if possible).

- i. Design and distribute posters/brochures that are issue specific that can promote both an issue and the efforts in the Byron Shire Symposium Network. For example, make brochures that focus on the water fluoridation issue while at the same time promote interest in the Symposium Network concept that encourages the selection of a community-wide decision-making method that can be used for a community to make a decision on water fluoridation.

### **Phase Three: Developing Community cohesiveness**

Recognizing the fact that creating and projecting the will of the People is simply not possible before a community learns how to truly unite, testing will be required to discover most efficient techniques to initiate community connectivity.

#### a. Monthly Symposium

##### a. Establishing the initial rules for participant organizations

###### i. Organisation Requirments:

1. Provide own tables, chairs, table cloths, and dividers (temporary self-standing walls) if required. Tables size limited to 2 X 1 metres.
2. Any decorations should be in harmony with the chosen theme for the Symposium for any particular month.
3. Each participating organisation is responsible for cleaning their own area at the end of the Symposium.
4. All signs and posters related to any one participating organisation will be limited to their own table and dividers. Other signs or posters will need approval of the Symposium management team.
5. Those organisations not in compliance with the rules will not be able to reserve a space for any future Symposiums.

###### ii. Symposium Management Requirements:

1. Oversee the management of the entire monthly Symposium
2. Decorate the Symposium area sufficiently to create an esthetically pleasing environment. Each Symposium should have a theme in which all participants contribute towards.
3. Schedule high-profile speakers when possible – being directed by the needs of the community members.
4. Include in decorations pictures or posters signifying the on-going research and the ultimate goal of world government via [www.UPworldgov.org](http://www.UPworldgov.org). This is one option of a decision-making system for the community. Other systems will have the same opportunity to introduce themselves to the community.
5. Assure complete clean up of overall Symposium space at the end of each Symposium.

- b. Web newsletter and community non-profit organization directory
  - a. One of the major objectives of the Symposiums will be to create one single on-line portal, that will hopefully be right and left-brain friendly, where locals and visitors alike will be able to easily and quickly find and understand the significance of every non-profit community organization. This will be complementary to existing lists rather than in competition with them.
  - b. Just like other advertisements of the Symposiums, they will display participating organizations and other associated activities at least three months in advance.
  - c. Select one or more professional local photographers to be official Symposium photographers. They will be present at all Symposiums to take pictures that will go into the newsletter/website.

### **Phase Three: Measuring Receptiveness**

During Phase Two, what techniques can be introduced and monitored that can begin to measure the community's receptiveness to creating and projecting a unified voice on any particular issue?

- a. Questionnaires Random surveys to measure:
  - a. Degree of interest from visitors from other NSW shires
  - b. Degree of interest from visitors from other states in Australia
  - c. Degree of interest from visitors from other nations
  - d. Degree of receptiveness to creating and projecting will of the People
  - e. Degree of receptiveness to Republican Form of world government
  - f. Settings surveys concerning United People System
- b. Degree of community awareness of Symposiums
  - a. Measurement of increase or decrease in attendance of monthly Symposiums.
  - b. Random interviews at markets

### **Phase Four: Choosing a method for making community-wide decisions**

From the very start, dialog should be encouraged that is centered upon collecting information concerning available methods of community decision making. At the same time, a process should be agreed to as to how to make the decision to select a decision-making method for the community.

- a. List the already known methods
  - a. United People System
    - i. Introduction to Settings (60 in all) Have a questionnaire available on each Symposium day. Since there will be 18 Symposium days, have each questionnaire ask for communities response to 4 of the settings and what percentage of the participants would be required to change each setting.
- b. How the community decides on a decision-making method
  - a. Have an understanding that the only ones who can participate in his decision are the community members who show up to make it.
  - b. Select a % of those who do show up that will represent an accepted decision (51% for example)

- c. Specify the process as to how to assure that the community is fully aware of the process of selecting a community-wide decision-making method.
  - i. A specific number of public notices mailed to all residences
  - ii. A specific number of weeks advertising/discussion on various radio shows
  - iii. TV coverage in news if possible
  - iv. Posters/brochures at markets and in local businesses and Post Offices
  
- d. After the requirements in “c” above are met, specify exactly how a vote is to be accommodated amongst the community members who are participating.
  - i. vote by mail ballots
  - ii. vote by email
  - iii. vote by drop-off ballots
  - iv. All of the above
  - v. Use of [www.upworldgov.org](http://www.upworldgov.org) technology
  
- e. If the vote is successful and a decision-making method is accepted by those participating, every successful decision made using this method in the future will be formally accepted by the community as the formal “Will of the People” in that community.

At the conclusion of a successful vote, the raffle may be held to raffle off the items collected and promised to the community in the case of a successful vote.

### **Funding of ‘Will of the People Project’**

All elements of the project that are clearly and directly identifiable as required elements for a successful conclusion of the project will be funded. All money received by sponsors and all donations may be 100% tax deductible.

## Section 2: Media Release – For Immediate Release

### Byron Shire Experimenting in Community Decision Making

A Byron Shire Symposium Network will be launched 5 April 2009. This is an experiment being initiated and monitored by the Sustainability Research Institute, and its main focus is to find if it is possible for a community to establish an agreement on how to make community decisions.

Simon Richardson, Byron Shire Councillor, supported the Symposium Network concept by saying, "Important environmental issues can't be decided upon by government administrators and then thrust upon the People. This is an opportunity to generate a groundswell of community discussion on energy, transport, home design, water, food and community resilience to face the years ahead (Climate Change, Clean Energy, Recession, etc.) that actually result in clear decisions. Any real solutions to these challenges must be owned fully by the People before the media and government administration (local, state and national) can come to the community's aid. After all, the People are the Government and thus the will of the People needs to be at the forefront of decisions that affect us all. The People just need to agree to a single method that will allow decisions to be made."

Paul Spooner, of the Byron Youth Service and co-founder of the Byron Social Forum, said, "With the assistance of Kerry O'Brien of ABC's 7:30 Report, the Byron Social Forum was launched in June 2008 to encourage broad based community discussions. The development of the Symposiums is a very tangible effort towards that goal. The Symposiums will allow those involved to move beyond engaging in dialog to hopefully experience a more collective approach to community decision-making."

The first formal partner in the Symposium Network is the Byron Community & Cultural Centre – that will be freely providing the Byron Bay venue for the 1st Sunday of each month. The Byron Bay Community Association President, Jani Collins, said, "We fully support this community effort to unite and learn how to make responsible collective decisions, and are delighted to host the Symposium in Byron Bay." Byron Shire Council is making available the new Mullum Civic Memorial Hall during the Market Days in Mullumbimby. Venues are also being sought for Bangalow and Brunswick Heads during their market days.

Ricardo Johansson, Byron Shire Community Coordinator and United People Trustee ([www.upworldgov.org](http://www.upworldgov.org)) said, "Non-profit community organizations will be able to introduce themselves, and what they do, to the rest of the community and ask for community assistance in some of their decisions. There will also be scheduled lectures and/or films by various government departments and private enterprises to assist in the development of community projects." He added, "The Byron Shire Symposium is actually the leading effort in a process that is hoped to be duplicated in each of the other Shires within Australia's Green Cauldron (Lismore, Byron, Kyogle, Tweed, Scenic Rim and Gold Coast Shires). It can then be extended to all shires in NSW and then Australia and beyond. Therefore, all community organizations within Australia's Green Cauldron will be welcome to have a presence at the Symposiums so they can see how it's done and to help kick things off."

The Australian federal government has committed to spending \$90 million per year to attract people, whom are referred to as "Experience Seekers," from all over the world and Australia to visit Australia's Green Cauldron. One of the main things Experience Seekers want to see and experience is community cooperation as well as the natural beauty of our area. The Experience Seeker will have the opportunity to see how communities can unite and have an open, honest, fair and responsible relationship between themselves and their government via an accepted decision-making method. They can then take this experience, crafted in Australia's Green Cauldron, home to their many communities and eventually make the world a better place. Mr. Johansson stated, "If we cannot achieve sustainability in communities and government, all other 'sustainable' efforts will be in vain. Peter Garrett, Minister for the Environment, has been a major player in the promotion of Australia's Green Cauldron concept. Keeping in mind his Midnight Oil's song 'Minutes to Midnight' we have no time to lose."

If you do have an interest in participating in these Symposiums, assisting in the collaborative planning efforts (including the procuring of speakers), or becoming a sponsor, please contact Ricardo Johansson at [ricardo@1062.org](mailto:ricardo@1062.org) or 0417 489 293, and let him know of your organisation's interest to participate and get an early reservation for the Symposiums. The full year's schedule is being drafted now.

# Section 3

Areas of Responsibility:

Area	Responsible Party	Email address and phone number
<p><b>Venue Liaison:</b> Assure all required payments are made - including fees, deposits and insurance coverage. Assure venues are left clean after each Symposium</p>		
<p><b>Raffle Item Liaison:</b> Approach as many businesses as possible to secure one or more big ticket items for the Symposium Raffle on 31 December 2009</p>		
<p><b>Sponsorship Liaison:</b> Recruit as many sponsors as needed to cover approximately \$5050 monthly costs of the Symposium.</p>		
<p><b>Art Department Manager:</b> Public Notice design Poster design Brochure design Printing liaison</p>		
<p><b>Door Keeper Manager:</b> Count number of attendees Issue and monitor Raffle tickets</p>		
<p><b>Web site creator and webmaster:</b> Post on the internet the schedule and progress of the symposiums</p>		

Area	Responsible Party	Email address and phone number
<p><b>Organisation Liaison:</b> Manage and Schedule displays for non-profit and co-operative organisations</p>		
<p><b>Media Liaison:</b> Prepare media releases and schedule News paper, TV and Radio interviews. Assure Symposium listing in all community calanders. Set up posters wherever possible.</p>		
<p><b>Post Office Liaison:</b> Coordinate all Public Notice mailings and position posters in all participating Post Offices</p>		
<p><b>Official Photographer:</b> Photograph all Symposium events and make available photos to the Art Department and the Webmaster for their use.</p>		
<p><b>Questionare Monitor:</b> Produce questionares for the symposiums and be present at the Symposiums to hand out and collect the questionares.</p>		
<p><b>Decision-making Coordinator:</b> Keep everyone's eyes on the main focus: decison-making. Work with everyone, especially the questionare monitor to achieve this. The objective is to have the community select a decison-making process by 31 December 2009</p>		
<p><b>Decorating Manager:</b> Decorate venues</p>		

Area	Responsible Party	Email address and phone number
<b>Speaker Liaison:</b> Schedule high profile speakers		

## Section 4: Sample Letter to Potential Raffle item provider

Craig Watson  
Mullumbimby Healthcare Pharmacy  
60 Burrinbar Mullumbimby NSW

Dear Mr. Watson,

As per the attached media release, the Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) is initiating a nine-month experiment in the Byron Shire, NSW Australia that can have a significant global impact. It is the first of its kind in the world that will see if it is possible to organise a community for the purpose of finding and accepting a community-wide decision-making method. SRI, observing the existing highly charged political environment around the world, senses quite strongly that since there is no question every individual in political office understands that its their duty to implement the will of the People, its due time that that people of those countries attempt to organise themselves to put a process in place that can create and project that will.

The first criteria of the SRI experiment is that we get the community's attention. We currently feel that here is no better way to accomplish this within the limited time we have than to offer each community member a significant incentive e.g. a chance to win a large ticket item such as a new automobile or holiday package. Their chance to win will be conditioned upon their participation in the experiment, and their chances will increase each time they attend the Symposium.

SRI currently has plans to send out a mailer to each residence in the shire each month in order to communicate with the community over the entire nine month period concerning this experiment.

Your company name, logo and photograph of the new automobile or holiday package being offered will appear in the mailer each time (min. of 18 mailings) as well as posters at the various Symposium venues , Post Offices, etc. And, probably most importantly, your offer of the automobile is conditioned upon the Byron Shire community finding and agreeing to use a decision-making method to create and project their collective will before 31 December 2009. Many people would look at this as a long shot - thus potentially offering you nine months of free advertising without risk of having to actually deliver the new automobile. However, if the community does agree, and you must deliver on your offer, your contribution will be a worthy advertising expenditure since it will no doubt receive national as well as international attention.

As we have a deadline to finalise all commitments in this experiment, I would appreciate your response before 15 March 2009.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Johansson, for:  
Dudley Leggett, Director  
Sustainability Research Institute

## **SECTION 5: SPONSORSHIP REQUEST NOTICE**

### **SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED FOR THE BYRON SHIRE SYMPOSIUM NETWORK**

On 13 June 2008 Kerry O'Brien of ABC's 7:30 Report helped launch the Byron Social Forum. This has led to the development of the Byron Shire Symposium Network - a community experiment initiated and managed by the Sustainability Research Institute (see attached media release for more details).

The current degradation of our political and economic systems as well as our Earthly environment, due primarily to our placing authority in too few hands, make this experiment an urgent issue.

The experiment is to see if it's possible to assemble enough civically responsible citizens within a society that has grown accustomed to referring to them as mere "tax-payers" or "consumers" to make one decision. That decision is to find and agree to use a decision-making method that can assist in creating and projecting a unified community voice: The Will of the People. If this is possible, the Byron Shire community will be the first to have found a process that can deliver orders to their elected government officials rather than a mere suggestion or petition on select issues.

Our intent is to initially hold the Symposiums on the market days in Byron and Mullumbimby, the first Sunday and third Saturday of each month, through to 31 December 2009 (18 in all).

Our aim is to be as thrifty as possible. We have secured the Byron Community & Cultural Centre for four hours on each Symposium day for hard costs only and \$125.00 respectively (approximate venue cost of \$250.00 per month) plus bond and insurance. Our method of communication with the community is "Public Notice" mailers via the Post Office. Half the Shire residences will receive notice of the Symposium in Byron Bay, and the other half will receive notice of the Symposium in Mullumbimby. The cost of the mailings, including design, layout, printing and mailing is \$5050 per month - that includes extra copies to be physically circulated at the Markets.

Therefore, we need community support amounting to a total of \$5300.00 per month to support this experiment. With twenty sponsors that's \$265.00 each.

You can give in two ways: assistance in the mailer/poster campaign and/or a cash donation to the experiment. If you choose the mailer, your company name and logo will appear in each of these mailers (min. of 18 in all) and posters in Post Offices, etc.. We believe this would be a worthy advertising expense for your company - especially since this experiment will most likely receive national and global media attention throughout 2009 and even beyond. All of our sponsors will also be credited in all media releases locally, nationally and globally. If you choose to make a cash donation you need to know that SRI is currently in contact with the ATO to verify if this cash donation can receive a 100% tax deductible status and will inform you as soon as it has an answer.

As we have a deadline to finalise all commitments in this experiment, I would appreciate your response before 15 March 2009.

All checks are to be made out to the Sustainability Research Institute with a memo specifying its intended purpose to support the Byron Shire Symposiums..

Please let me know of your interest, and we can make arrangements to meet and discuss further our specific needs and your level of support.

Lastly, the first objective of the "experiment" is to get the attention of the community." We request your assistance in finding a company that will offer an item (or items) to the project that can be raffled off on or about 31 December 2009. Each time a community member attends a Symposium he or she will receive one more ticket that will increase his or her chances of winning. The only stipulation is that the community must have reached a decision on using a specific decision-making method that when used will determine the "will" of the People.

Contact Ricardo Johansson Phone: 0417 489 293 Email: [ricardo@1062.org](mailto:ricardo@1062.org)