

DISSENTING VOICES

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Making more ethical futures Step 1: Building the Agendas

Do you want be part of making a better society?
Are you frustrated by the lack of spaces to discuss and develop
ideas into positive alternative social options that can challenge
rather than just criticise the very limited ones on offer?

Saturday October 19th 2002 1.30pm to 5pm
Sydney Mechanics School of Arts
Level 1, 280 Pitt Street Sydney
Entry Free – Bookings Essential

We are starting a series of gatherings to explore options for the future and work out the next steps for moving towards these. We want to find new ways of engaging diverse interested people with current political/social/cultural issues outside the limited visions of current public, political, social and educational institutions. We aim to involve both cross generational and cross cultural viewpoints and seek out different voices which may contribute forms of diversity that move us all outside our comfort zones. We believe that mixing community, business and academe with passion, experience and expertise should produce creative and interesting insights and proposals. Each forum will be a starting point for ongoing dialogue about the good ideas and developing these into proposals or public discussion documents.

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A panel of speakers will conduct short presentations to kick off discussion about the state of society and how we can develop more ethical cultures.

Panellists will include:

Bob Burton, Editor of MPI's Mining Monitor and freelance journalist

Peter Caldwell, Lecturer in Social Inquiry, UTS

Jane Caro, Creative Principle Copywriter and lobbyist

Anne Coombes, Writer, Activist & Co-convenor, Rural Australians for Refugees

Marie Fox, CEO, National Centre For Citizenship & Volunteering NSW

Lynette Thorstensen Director, Social Development and Environment, NSW Premier's Department, former CEO of Greenpeace Australia

The forum will be facilitated by Eva Cox, Senior Lecturer, UTS and Niki Vincent, Director, Governors Leadership Foundation SA.

We want to generate a wide community conversation.
We invite you to join our forum to start exploring the territory

This first forum will have the overarching theme of creating ethical futures. Given the effects of collapsing corporations, disputes about border protection, worries about litigation, cultural differences and anxieties about crime, can we hope to create more civil societies? Will debates encouraging ethical performance become good starting points for strategies that make society better? Can we find common ground and purpose across diverse interest groups and institutions? Do we need to articulate and debate what we may mean by social responsibility and ethics? How can good intentions be subverted?

The forum will be eclectic: part conversation, part seminar, part working group. The intention is to explore dissident opinions in respectful and fair ways. Diverse viewing points will offer the possibility of 'walking in each others shoes', arguing civilly and recognising common good will.

To book, email Gail Quirk at programs@sydneymsa.com.au
or phone 9262 7300

The Forum is supported by Sydney Mechanics School of Arts