

Rockwater Hub

September 30th 2021

Note on working title:

The name originates from a site in Rocklea, Meanjin/Brisbane that some neighbours and I looked at in 2021. Rocklea is supposed to have derived its name from Rocky Water Hole Creek that runs along the site's eastern border. At the time, I wasn't able to find out what indigenous people call the creek, if they had a particular name for it. I toyed with variations of 'Rocklea' and 'Rocky Water Hole Creek' and somehow Rock and Water combined captured the stability and fluidity of the concept in mind. Originally, I called it a Homestead because it represents the size of a place where people live, work and play, it being smaller than a hamlet or neighbourhood. I thought of Jimbour Homestead, north of Dalby, that was once a village of sorts and the farthest west inland outpost in the 1800s belonging to the Bell family who built a mansion there. But my indigenous colleague suggested 'homestead' had unfortunate connotations for Aborigines. Rockwater captures the essence of the Australian landscape experience; hard, stark contrasts, few good soils and yet blessed when there is water.

*“The Earth is full. There is no
where left to run”*

Working Brief

Rockwater Hub is larger than an homestead, but smaller than a hamlet. Here, up to 30 Australian residents of varying ages and skills live, work and play together some or all of the time, coming and going freely. They enjoy and celebrate the achievements of 6,000 years of human civilization without unduly drawing on technology or the environment. They are prepared for what's to come; a challenging social and climatic environment. From a haven of happiness, health, comfort, beauty and safety, they try to contribute to averting disastrous Dessent [sic] by building and living the future they wish to see; a world in which everyone has enough. A future that is bright and optimistic, with an eye on the stars above that we might one day venture out to when we are in balance with the carrying capacity of our beloved Earth that has fortuitously and randomly nurtured us.

*“Ask not what your planet can do
for you, ask what you can do for
your country.”*

How do we achieve all this?

Equity Model – everyone has enough. nfp company by Ltd guarantee. Shareholders/investors. Residents (owner/renter) are also employees. Money systems.

Productivity – work. (micro?) enterprises, businesses (including sole traders), cottage industry, self-sufficiency, free to neighbours, friends and family provisions. A variety of essential skills, especially, but not limited to tradie skills. Medical and other health-related skills.

Buildings and location – we live in a comfortable environment that is highly sustainable. A connection to the Earth. A healthy relationship to animals (pets, diet). Build based on past experiences and accumulated knowledge. Mine includes 10 years+ of observing, studying, [visiting](#), participating (in eco-villages like Maleny [EVA](#)) and [practising it at home](#).

Dimensions – 16 to 32 people on approximately 3,200 m² (or more if extending to herded animal husbandry, raising grains &/or forestry preservation) in approximately 1,100m² of sheltered floor space.

Sustainable - used materials available at local renovators & demolition yards, passive design

Land location guided by The Knowledge, by L. Dartnell and other informed sources, it should:

- have a reliable natural water supply even in the most severe drought ([SEQ water supply](#)), although whether SEQ gets dryer or wetter is debated; be flood safe.
 - Note state government [riperian water rights](#) apply to properties with direct access (no Council-owned buffer zone) for domestic purposes – see Regional Development Manufacturing Dept - Water Services pdf;
 - If property has direct access, no allocation permit is required to irrigate ½ hectare for domestic and stock (chickens, etc.). Excess produce may be sold on.
- some elevation for coolness is preferable, or cooling prevailing winds
- have some good soil
- be fire safe
- be within scavenging distance of Brisbane if public transport becomes non-functional

Lifestyle – play. A social life that recognizes, honours and nurtures good communication skills, emotional intelligence and ‘leaderful’ people.

Residents – Australian residents - continuity is necessary for sufficient familiarity to establish deep trust. Becoming a resident is a process, whilst leaving is straightforward. Residency after a 6 month rental before purchase, existing residents have first refusal rights. Cradle to grave - for all ages, but aiming to reflect the surrounding demographic.

Technology - 6,000 years of human civilization. Something to celebrate, not idolize [[sic](#)]. Used intelligently, critically. Complexity moderated by prediction of what will be maintainable or replaceable.

Degrowth – sometimes called The Long Dessent, [Collapse](#), Near-term Human Extinction, it all depends on how optimistic you feel on the day. These are all variations of the inevitable population and economic contraction we will both voluntarily and be forcibly transitioned to this century. Nature is forcing us to down-size the human enterprise; some are on board and even ahead of the game, but most are unaware, waiting or unwilling to be forced.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

