

- *Learning from experience*
- *Applying ingenuity and learning therefrom*
- *Acting ahead wisely*
- *Creating practical projects that demonstrate a better world is possible*

Zen & the Art-ifice of Ingenuity: Towards an Archaic Renaissance

What do artificers, bricoleurs, bush mechanics, bioneers and Bob (or Bobbi) the builder have in common? They relish novel situations. They enjoy applying their ingenuity to problems, working out new approaches using whatever is available. They like using their ingenuity to put together bits and pieces of their relevant experience with a dash of innovation. They use trial and error until they have something that works. All of us have a touch of the bush mechanic in us. We are all capable of creativity and innovation. As an action learner the Artificer blends doing with thinking and reflects the outcomes this way we can fine-tune a project on the run until it works.

Who is this CD for? Here you will find the **three eBooks and other supplementary material** from my 12year Action Research project exploring the in's and out's of the Artificer/Bush Mechanic. It is designed for everyone who enjoys working with their 'bushie within'. The tacit knowledge and skills we all possess are largely underrated. We are often reluctant to use them in our formal working life. This eBook series celebrates those skills. It gives us a chance to learn from one another how to use and develop them effectively.

What is a bush mechanic and why is this disappearing species important to our children's social and economic future? We can see this 'bushy-touch' today as part of an expanding range of fields such as the: hacker, maker, permaculture, community economy development, community currency, cottage industry, right livelihood movement, steampunk, hand crafted life and Gaia restore movements, farm implement prototypes (e.g. the ABC Landline program), eco-village, preppers, survivalists, lifeboat communities, life-hackers, steam-punkers, wilders, prime'tives, primals, DIY, hobbyists, transition towns, permaculture, bioneering, mutual aid anarchism (see the diagram on the front cover of eBook3), local direct democracy systems, and crucially indigenous folk who can fix a car from almost nothing. These can be found in both developed and developing countries yet they remain segments generally unconnected with the larger CRAFT type picture i.e. the dots remain unjoined. This research program sought to identify these dots then propose ways of joining them.

Further these movements also speak to a rebalancing of yin and yang in our yang obsessed Western culture, recognition of the elder, and the practice of global repair and reuse i.e. 'enough is enough' or what I call here the 'eNuffer'. Crucially we need to re-member the deeper link with our evolution through the causative role handmade tools had in facilitating increase in our brain capacity (chiro drove cogno) and experiential forms of learning (critical futures praxis) and we see in the bushy/artificer a coalescence of the two in a re-membered participative consciousness where we help our future become what it needs to be.

These skills, the very ones we have taken away from them, will be absolutely crucial for our children e.g. after the apocalypse of say GFC2 (by 2020) and the worsening of Global War(m)ing (by 2060) and with the spreading unemployment through ongoing de-industrialisation and the rise of the robot worker/pilot/priest of the west (by 2050), the ability of Corpor'a'nations to pass legislation and veto Nation State legislation (by 2020) and overpopulation in so called 'developing nations' (by 2030). All at a time when we are also seeing an historic shift from West (instrumental/rationalist) to East (Confucian/Daoist/Buddhist) in the Global Socio-Economic Centre of Gravity and at this very time our economies seem unable to respond or innovate socially as we are overwhelmed by government

regulation, surveillance, bail-ins, bureaucratic control and ‘austerity measures’. Our children deserve better – they deserve a positive future not one based on fear. And I believe the bushy/artificer can, and should, be part of that future.

My research has shown that here there is a ‘pattern that connects’ viz. six principal attributes of ‘bush mechanicing’ these are: **1 the exemplar project**¹; **2 Inner – outer balance**/within and without the artificer; **3 meeting social need/mutual aid**; **4 seeing the big picture**/global problematique; **5 harmonising the parts of the project** so they ‘work well together’; and critically **6 Learning by doing**. Once the eBook series identifies these six **commonalities of process** between **Artificers**, various historical aspects of our ‘urge to artifice’ are explored. I argue this urge is a human right and we see it in children’s play, now eliminated from our ‘nationalised’ childhood learning curriculum, in a sense just as Adult Learning has been all but eliminated from TAFE. Further the eBook series explores the close link between the bush mechanic and indigenous circumstance i.e. Aboriginal community life in Australia.

So in summary Artificer Wisdom as excavated in this eBook series is about practical hope through our regaining the ability to re-member the grounded form of archaic wisdom of a Hand Crafted Life wherein chiro drives cogno (hand knowledge drives head knowledge). Grounded in the sense of practical, relational and embedded. As Karl Jung says: *Every civilized human being, whatever his conscious development, is still an archaic man at the deeper levels of his psyche.* And further: *often the hands will solve a mystery that the intellect has struggled with in vain.* Artificer Wisdom then is an expertise over a generalised area of human endeavour with so-called related ‘skill sets’. Thus we have echoes of this in our civilisation today viz. ‘Surgeon General’, Co-coordinator General, Military General, Attorney General and so forth. This is the difference between General Physician (an expert generalist) and General Practitioner (a first call generalist).

Historically, the tradition of the Artificer/Bush Mechanic goes back centuries to the Artificer of the Middle Ages and indeed it even goes back further even millennia to post ice age Neolithic life and further even 1.4million years to Homo habilis. Back to the last ice age, some 10 millennia ago, and even earlier. This huge macro-history where ‘brain development’ was in effect created through ‘hand knowledge’ is now long ignored. In our evolution our ‘hands drove the development of our heads’, dexterity through delight, discipline and design leads to development of deliberation and discernment rather than the other way round. Yet in our modern Western educational systems tragically we have reversed this. Today this ‘hands first’ approach is actively excluded from our schools, Universities, bureaucracies and Governments nowadays we praise and reward abstract thinking and hold the practicalities of life in little regard often relying on an off the shelf product to save the day. This is all till we, our economy or Gaia hits the wall so to speak.

Nowadays however, these eBooks maintain, that when we need to re-engage the Artificer with a modern touch indeed a second Renaissance based on another type of consciousness, indeed another ontology or way of being i.e. not only *practical* (Artificer/Bush Mechanic), it is also *relational* (with other people, flora and fauna and of course with Gaia herself) which leads to the third attribute of *grounded* (as in indigenous) and thus *participatory* (no about me without me). Grounded in relationships and grounded as in embodied from the soil ‘from the ground up’ so to speak i.e. from, and of Gaia. This leads to accepting the validity of the mysterium of the unconsciousness which, ultimately leads us to a different type of consciousness. The eBook series calls this Archaic Renaissance Consciousness (ARC) which outworks itself in a different type of socio-economic system using this different social contract so to speak e.g. a post-work, repair and reuse, local first, mutual aid, kids and adults learning one.

Such an approach is basically the opposite of the top down abstract type consciousness we see today where we see ourselves as separate to, and not a part of, nature. Indeed the eBook series argues that our ‘European Project’ cannot recognize the existence of the WildMan/GreenMan/Sauvage/Artificer/Buccaneer/Archaic – outside the ‘Nation State’ in a pagan ‘State of Nature’ -- green chaos is still too much of a threat to the imperial dream of top down order and control. Likewise capitalism eschews the local. So putting the two together the ‘wildlocal’ so to speak is an act of insurrection especially

when indigenous. The eBook series argues for a re-infusion, a re-membering of this past so our children's children can have a future.ⁱⁱ

Exemplar Systems Practice (ESP): In the East often called 'the Way' or Tao. Especially the 'lived life' systems 'nest' in which the bushy ~ artificer and their projects live. ESD is the way we remember to put our social world together in order to help the 'agency' of the artificer so to speak.ⁱⁱⁱ Many commentators today for instance consider that the individual is at best 20% of the outcome the other 80% come from these enabling, or hindering, underlying systems and structures say epitomised in an **AARZ**. So in this sense the eBook series is also on about a specific or exemplar kind of enabling systems development – the Archaic Renaissance. In fact ESP and Artificering go hand in hand for 'acting ahead wisely by hand through drawing from the lessons of the past'.

Some examples of bushies: Bush Mechanics, although not necessarily inventors are innovators who can 'bricolage' things together to make something new that will do the job elegantly, can include folk who have met the above 6 criteria in for instance. The CD also includes a method of such learning as in **Learning Circles**, and a deeper look at this way of learning – esp. re **Archaic Renaissance**^{iv}, in the series of 6 articles where I explore this with colleague Iona Miller (US).

What is this CD and who is it for? Here you will find the **three eBooks** reporting the outcomes from this decade long Action Research Project as well as heaps of other information, reports, links and other research on the Artificer. This is globally unique and is all public domain and as such is available to you, dear user, free of charge. It is designed as a resource to help empower folks listed in the above groups who want to understand the pattern that connects this approach to living, learning and loving.

This CD is designed for everyone who enjoys finding, playing, working with and developing their 'bushie within'. The tacit knowledge and skills we all possess are largely underrated. We are often reluctant to use them in our formal working life. This CD is a resource for these folks and celebrates those skills. **The eBook series is written on the module basis** and so the various chapters and Appendices are relatively independent. **Use it as a resource to find the section that's relevant to you** and don't worry about the rest until you need it. Plus network with your fellow bushies on our weebly site www.bushie.weebly.com and check out our 'pattern that connects' CRAFT orientated eZine www.crafters-circle.com gives us a chance to learn from one another how to use and develop them effectively. Or you can go straight to the series at <http://www.kalgrove.com/adultlearning/>. It may take a minute or so to load. At this web site you will also find heaps of stuff on Adult Learning inc. background and ancillary reports and articles on the bush mechanic and the overall action research project. You can contact the author directly on paul@kalgrove.com.

How to obtain this CD: Directly from the author Paul Wildman paul@kalgrove.com and the publisher: The Kalgrove Institute. PO Box 73 Northgate 4013 Brisbane. Price: \$40ea inc. & \$5p&h. All prices in AUD.

Workshops based on this CD: Please let me know if you wish to be part of an online or f2f workshop on these materials.

References: [This flyer V5 24-01-214 3000 words]

Wildman, P. (2014). [BMARP12] *Zen and the Artifice of Ingenuity: Towards an Archaic Renaissance: Re-membering the Bushy/Artificer as an archaic phenomenon now vitally relevant for our post-modern era of environmental, political and social decline in the West. Overview Report on the outcomes of the Australian Bush Mechanic/Artificer Learning Action Research program 2001-2014 incorporating eBooks 1, 2, & 3 and substantial related material and web-links.* Brisbane. The Kalgrove Institute Brisbane inc. Prosperity Press. Digital book/CD. **ISBN: 978-1-875603-19-0**. [BMARP – Bush Mechanic/Artificer Action Research Project]

Backgrounding these publications: *eBook1 (2008)* used Grounded theory to identify and explore the attributes of the Artificer, a key building block of the Archaic Renaissance, *eBook2 (2010)* then related this to conventional educational systems in developed nations and noted the gaps, while *eBook3 (2013)* looked at applying this to a new system for Kids and Adults Learning in AARZ's through intentional communities and the identification of a new political process therefor

emerging interactively from a re-newed consciousness as per footnote above. See for instance <http://www.unity.fm/program/CuttingEdgeConsciousness> Bruce Lipton: Tuning into Possibility

Wildman, P. (2008). *[BMAP1] Zen and the Art•ifice of Ingenuity: Bush Mechanic Action Research Project report [BMAP] (2001-2008) into the practice and prospectivity of the bioneering Artificer/Bush Mechanic (Australian term) in the process of Exemplar System Development (ESD) for a better world: Vol 1- the Artificer*. The KALGROVE Institute /Prosperity Press - Bush Mechanic Action Research Project (BMAP): eBook 1: Brisbane. p. 370pgs. Codifying the results of a 7 year research program.

Wildman, P. (2009). *[BMAP9] Zen and the Art•ifice of Ingenuity: Comparative Educational Pedagogy's – towards an emergent Chiro-pedagogy*. The KAGROVE Institute. Brisbane. eBook 2. 220 pgs.

Wildman, P. (2013). *[BMAP11] Zen and the Art•ifice of Ingenuity: Archaic Renaissance: Reprising the Bushy ~ the potential emergence of a post-capitalist political class and pedagogy based on experience and transcendence*. eBook 3, Brisbane: Published by The KALGROVE Institute. 230pgs.

ⁱ As in Journeyman's piece – this brings in the notion of 'initiation' through the years of the Apprenticeship to Master and is directly linked to that in masonic, and shamanic rites and indigenous cultures. Further such mastery takes some 10,000hrs about the length of a medieval apprenticeship and Jesuit induction program (both being 7+yrs).

ⁱⁱ **Please Note:** the AR is not a non-critical re-rendering of the 'noble savage' of our Rousseau'ean doxa rather it is a paraxial re-membering of the archaic for today's world the re-recovery of a different logos so to speak.

ⁱⁱⁱ Re-emembering as in stoking the campfire as in re-membering as in the ancient French word 'sauvage', not only savage as we received it in English, but rather; direct, cultured yet not civilised, direct, unmediated, uncomplicated, practical a form of direct experiencing in ones lived life in Nature etc. AR then is sauvage bricolage, artificing one's life. Here I have researched over a 10yr period and propose a 'sound yet irrational' bases for AR and call for **AARZ's** (Autonomous Archaic Renaissance Zones) as TerraFirma Haven's (say – e.g. <https://www.facebook.com/terrafirma.haven>) with the recognition that as Jung said 'there is a psychic component to nature' and I say vice versa, as intentional communities therein, a crucial form of Social Innovation.

AR is outside Enlightenment rationality and is thus 'un-irrational' or 'differently rational' and I argue based on a type of healthy post apocalypse bottom-up deeply participative 'no about me without me' neg-entropic love/relationship evernow oriented re-membered-neo-anarcho∞archao∞post-pagan∞christian-indigenous-artificer creative consciousness cp. to the wealthy top-down 'on my behalf/non inclusive' entropic fear based/individual evernext future oriented-present-democratic-progressive→bureaucratic-modern→secular-Western/Anglophone-consumer consciousness. 'Creativity' as I call it, is where creativity is loves work. eBook 3 discusses this point of recasting Vocational Education beyond STEM (Science, Technology inc. IT, Engineering, and Maths) for the emergent post job political economy.

The crisis of the Enlightenment embodied in Auschwitz, Babi Yar or Vukovar have never been acknowledged however in terms of this eBook series the enlightenment perished in the gas ovens of Auschwitz. So now we are 'Auschwitzing' the whole planet and if we are to look to 'save the day', for me, we have to start somewhere else, somewhere before the Enlightenment civilisations of modernity. In this regard the eBook series argues for the distinction between civilisation and culture i.e. 'culture' of the indigenous, of the archaic, who, according to modernity definitions do not have a civilisation!!!

^{iv} By Archaic Renaissance is meant via. Archaic an 'Indigenous Revival' or 'Ancient Renewal' 'Re-Membering' a time, say 10 millennia ago as the Palaeolithic was blending into the Neolithic, when humanity had a compact with Nature in a 're-membered re-emergent unified commons' so to speak, one of respect wherein humanity was part of the web of life, where thinking was braided with doing, subject & object were part of the one system of cycles, yin (agape artificer) was in balance with yang (techne artificer – history, craft, art, mastery with the machine as an extension of the human), where life was largely hand crafted with Nature, & science was not separate from nature, nor subject from object & mutual aid. And by Renaissance, 15thC, is meant where a 'modern' inclusive participative rationality emerges which includes emotions, imagination, creativity, dreams & beauty for instance 'Renaissance archaïque'. However in the Enlightenment techne more thoroughly became technique (human as an extension of the machine technique as skill)

The eBook series argues that the Artificer is a type of 'exoteric' Alchemist and thus a subset of the Alchemist Archetype and may be seen as a re-membered 'Archatype'. [The term 'archetype' has its origins in ancient Greek. The root words are *archein*, which means 'original or old'; and *typos*, which means 'pattern, model or type']. The combined meaning is an 'original pattern' of which all other similar persons, objects, or concepts are derived, copied, modelled, or emulated. The Artificer then is one who uses her experience to bring the thought form of her mind and put it into matter, in short a demiurge/magician one (of the three wise men so to speak) who shapes yet does not make matter – in short a meta∞physical or meta∞alchemical role. The term 'alchemist' also links to medicine woman so Artificer is a form of Ying alchemic energy that collects shards/herbs scattered and links them in a the healthy pattern that connects earth sky and soul]. It is this rationality that is used to re-member the Archaic as in his was time with a different way for being human, a different ontology, & this movement maybe seen as becoming more fully human (**H**) a counterpart to the scientific techno-utopian Transhumanist (**H+**) one, i.e. getting *first life* sorted by becoming **H** before we abandon ourselves to *second life* **H+**.