



The Pt'chang Report

Nonviolent Community
Safety and Peacekeeping

June 97 - June 98

THANK YOU

Pt'chang would like to thank the groups and individuals below for their generous and much appreciated support during the last year.

Down To Earth Cooperative Society Pty. Ltd.

Collective Of Self Help Groups

Friends Of The Earth Collingwood

Australian Nonviolence Network

Roxstop Action Collective

Outdoors Inc

Baker's Cafe

Rush Bar

Empress Hotel

Paladin Nightclub

Psycorroboree

Glen Ochre - Commonground

Damian Crowley - Aiki Research Centre

Lothlorian

Domingo

Poohbum

Ollie Olsen

dee dee

steve law (zen Paradox)

will E tell

Andrez

David Habberfield (honeysmack)

Felix (Fractal Glider)

cdjay

dj Moon

dj Krusty

dj Sugar

dj Jungle

Nikki Bisogni - Prahan Mission

Micheal Arnold - Ravesafe

Robin Cook - Mutoid Waste Co.

Pip

Bill

St Andrews Music Festival

Dave and Kirsten (for the Mitsi van)

Reclaim The Streets

To all the individuals in Down To Earth and at ConFest who gave their time, energy, advice and assistance to the project and everybody else who has lent their time, energy, resources

The Pt'chang Report
Nonviolent Community Safety and Peacekeeping

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Other Pt'chang Publications:

The Pt'chang Report: The Story of the ConFest Safety Project June 96 - June 97
Nonviolent Peacekeeping Handbook
Community Listening Project Report *to be published*



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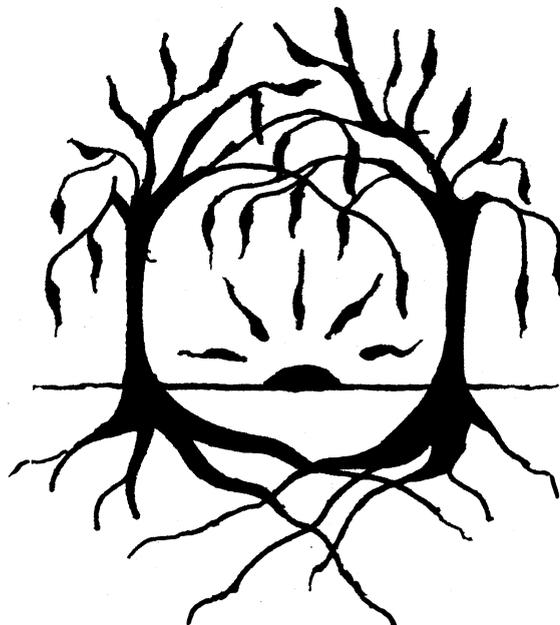


VISION STATEMENT

Pt'chang works toward the vision of a world free from fear and violence. We believe that everybody has a basic right to feel safe at all times and that everybody is, in their own way, responsible for creating safety within their lives and communities. Pt'chang sees safety as pro-active - the creation of space where all can experience and express their lives to the fullest - that it is possible to create safety powerfully and nonviolently. Pt'chang sees itself as a small part of a wider movement toward restorative justice systems, toward safe, peaceful and sustainable communities and toward social systems and structures that meet human needs.

NONVIOLENT COMMUNITY SAFETY THEMES

- we all have the right to feel safe all the time
- we are all responsible for creating safety within our lives and communities
- we can respond powerfully, effectively and nonviolently to violence within our community
- creating safety is a crucial part of building real and sustainable communities





INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Pt'chang's 1997- 1998 Report! This report covers the activities, projects, processes and findings of Pt'chang, a very active, grassroots, all-volunteer Victorian based, community safety and peacekeeping group over the last year. Those people who have had access to Pt'chang's last report will no doubt notice Pt'chang has moved far and changed much since the launch of that report in July 1997.

According to our new constitution, Pt'chang aims to 'initiate and facilitate empowering, sustainable Nonviolent Community Safety Projects and provide much needed resources, training, support and trained teams of peacekeepers to community organisations and groups.'

As the chapter titles indicate, Pt'chang has been involved in many diverse and wide ranging initiatives over the past year as well as continuing the work, begun in 1996, of the ConFest Safety Project. Also, Pt'chang has grown and developed a much stronger and resilient internal structure, membership base and financial structure including the step of becoming incorporated as an Association in June 1998. Although this report is part of our commitment to the Down To Earth, (the co-operative society that organise ConFest each year and who fund Pt'chang's work at ConFest), it also provides a glimpse of how Pt'chang has moved into these new and exciting directions since Pt'chang's emergence from the myriad communities at ConFest in 1992.

We hope that the information, observations and data collected and compiled within this report will be seen and used as a valuable resource and reference when decisions are made within Down To Earth regarding the many safety-related issues at ConFest, and over time, will have a discernible impact on the way ConFests are organised in the future. Pt'chang will continue to utilise the information contained herein to improve our efforts and increase the effectiveness of the ConFest Safety Project.

Currently, Pt'chang is involved in two reasonably sized projects aside from the ConFest Safety Project. One is a proposed Community Listening Project in the Melbourne City of Darebin (formally Northcote, Preston, Thornbury and Reservoir) which will be funded by the local council. The other is a Research Team examining the community safety issues prevalent in the Fitzroy/Collingwood area. This report finishes with a forward looking overview of these current projects and the exciting projects ahead of us in the near future.

In this report, we could not hope to encapsulate the whole hectic, fun, arduous, eventful, busy year since the last Pt'chang report. An almost impossible task by any standards, so we ask you, the reader, to treat this document as merely a scant overview. Assume that each chapter was underpinned and balanced by the human elements, the friendships and bonds formed, what we learnt, shared and experienced together and our sense of fun that enables us to be as effective as we are.



For those who have not read the last Pt'chang Report (June 96 to June 97) the Appendix will hopefully provide some more background detail on the history of the group, and about Pt'chang's approach to Nonviolent Community Safety.

Once again, nothing in this Report would have been possible without the tremendous and often unrequested support and generosity of many individuals and groups and the tireless volunteer efforts of the hundred or so people who make up Pt'chang.

Please enjoy!

The Editorial Collective; Liz Scarfe, Anthony Kelly, Melissa Noonan, Vanessa Toy and David Alderson.



Debriefing day after the Easter ConFest 1998

ConFest Safety Project
Australian Violence Prevention Award
Recipient - Certificate of Merit 1998



PEACEKEEPING TWO



On the weekend of September 5-7 1997, Pt'chang held a 'Nonviolent Peacekeeping Two' workshop. This is something that we had planned for some time and that grew out of the realisation that it was not possible to fit everything we wanted to do, practice and learn into one weekend workshop. Peacekeeping Two was not necessarily a more 'advanced' workshop but was aimed at developing and building on what we had already done within the series of peacekeeping weekend training's over the last few years. It was open only to people who had done at least one days training previously and was held at the beach side town of Portsea on the Mornington Peninsula.

Facilitated by Jacqui Archibald, David Alderson and Anthony Kelly, organised largely by Lisa Male, the workshop had a total of 18 people from Pt'chang participating. The weekend agenda was diverse and packed with roleplays, new exercises, new information and even some new games! The agenda covered:

- *case studies of nonviolent peacekeeping approaches from Northern Ireland, the Shanti Sena in India, the Queer Patrol in San Fransisco and the Yuendumu Aboriginal Night Patrols in the Northern Territory*
- *Planning and co-ordinating Peacekeeping projects*
- *Working in pairs*
- *Exploring violence and self-esteem*
- *Roleplays of arrestable situations*
- *Peacekeeping in dangerous situations*
- *Dealing with fears*
- *Police, Law and legal information and Police liaison*
- *Quick Decision-making exercises*

The weekend was extremely involving and somewhat complicated with so many new and untried group exercises and relatively new information. Despite having a whole weekend we ran out of time and many exercises were too short to fully explore all the issues and dynamics. It certainly highlighted just how much further training, workshopping and developing of nonviolent peacekeeping there could be.

Hopefully, a Peacekeeping 2 weekend workshop can become a regular event in Pt'chang as numbers and interest builds after a series of the regular Peacekeeping training's each year. It also points towards the exciting possibility of developing a staged 'Peacekeeping and Community Safety Training Programme' for Pt'chang in the future.

-Anthony Kelly



PT'CHANG AT ROXSTOP: DESERT ACTION AND FESTIVAL



In May 1997, after consultations with the Roxby Action Collective (RAC) and much discussion within the group, Pt'chang decided to send a small affinity group to Roxstop. The Desert Action and Music Festival in South Australia, was held in late September, early October of that year. Roxstop was the largest and most adventurously planned anti-uranium action in Australia for at least a decade and an ideal opportunity for Pt'chang to provide support, peacekeeping and community safety assistance in a different, challenging and direct action-focused environment.

Roxstop had the manifold aims of opposing WMC's (formally Western Mining Corporation) copper-uranium mine at Roxby Downs. The more specific aims were to highlight the current \$1.5 billion expansion

which will increase the mines already damaging extraction of artesian water to 42million litres a day, to support the local Kokatha and Arabunna communities affected by the mine, to address issues of worker's health and safety and to campaign against Australia's increasing role in the global nuclear industry and the opening of any more uranium mines.

Pt'chang began to liaise with the newly formed Roxby Action Group during June '97 about our potential role during the eleven day event as we were gradually planning and defining our role and helped write a section in the Activist Handbook about First Aid, Community Safety and Peacekeeping. (see over)

Fundraising

After months of incredible fundraising efforts by many people in Pt'chang that included a live gig with Lothlorian on August 24, a great techno Rave called Metagenesis at the Paladin Nightclub on August 31, a well-supported raffle and tremendous financial support from Down to Earth, ten people from Pt'chang piled into a fully loaded Mitsubishi van and Kombi and set off for a two week adventure in the vast and beautiful South Australian desert. Kim, Raven, Melissa, Lisa, Gwialchmai (Anthony L), Sh'ana, Anthony, Clay, Jen, Isabelle and Rory were there as Pt'chang, along with Robin from the recycling art group, Mutoid Waste Co. and Pip and Bill (video makers), joining our mobile village.

Roxby Downs

A year of superb organising by the Roxby Action Collective culminated in September 22 1997 with approximately two hundred and fifty people gathered in the South Australian outback to challenge WMC's mining of the planet's most toxic material. Other issues addressed by Roxstop included the massive expansion of Olympic Dam into the largest uranium mine in the world, the undermining of Aboriginal land rights, the ecological effects of removing huge volumes of water from the Great Artesian Basin and the long term health effects on the mine workers and their families.



The two-week long action was divided into two sections. The first camp, just outside Roxby Downs township, (600 Kms North of Adelaide) was nestled in beautiful red sanddunes and sparse desert scrub and wildflowers. Here we set up camp, held information workshops, action planning meetings and leafleted the township and mine to publicise the Public Meeting on Worker's Health that week which was to play an important part of the event.

We did two effective and powerful actions on the Thursday of that week (25/9/97). One, an early morning blockade of the Olympic Dam mine which blocked access to the metallurgical plant for several hours. That action was followed by a more spontaneous sit-down

Roxstop Activist Handbook



COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PEACE KEEPING

Importantly, we all have the right to feel safe all the time. Just because we are at ROXSTOP to protest against uranium mining in Australia does not mean that issues of personal safety are not of equal importance. Safety is something that we all, in our own way, responsible for and all of us can do something about. At such a large event, over such a long period, it's important that we all look after each other, remain aware of the personal space of other people and, if personal conflicts arise, remember that there are positive and effective ways of resolving them.

If you are feeling unsafe for any reason, you can tell somebody about it! A friend or supportive person may

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be available but also the organisers and Pt'chang volunteers recognise safety issues and are willing to help and do something about it! Some of Pt'chang are experienced counsellors and we aim to encourage a support network during ROXSTOP. Confidentially will be respected throughout.

Pt'chang is one of the groups helping to make Roxstop work. Pt'chang is a volunteer community safety and peacekeeping group.

During Roxstop, our role will be:

- to coordinate First Aid
- provide nonviolent peacekeeping and mediation when and where appropriate
- act as a communication network throughout the campsites and events
- provide workshops on nonviolent community safety and
- coordinate community safety and support initiatives during the eleven days we are together.

Pt'chang uses cooperative 'power-with' processes to help create safety and is responsible and accountable to the 'community' of people that take part in ROXSTOP.

Please contact Pt'chang through the Info or First Aid Tent if you want to become involved in safety or peacekeeping, or if you have First Aid, counselling, conflict resolution, support or other skills to offer.

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for seven hours.

road blockade of a huge WMC transport Convoy that over 100 activists managed to stop

Pt'chang maintained a very busy and useful peacekeeping and communications role at both of these major actions. We provided legal support to activists, police liaison (that succeeded in convincing the few over-zealous Roxby Downs police present to give up trying to physically drag activists off the road) and constant communications between the action site and the base camp. We also provided some support to an activist physically assaulted by a truck driver at the road blockade.

Pt'chang's main role throughout the whole action/festival was "nonviolent community safety and peacekeeping". This involved quite a range of activities such as maintaining a communication network with radios and phones, occasionally facilitating the large morning camp meetings, co-ordinating and helping



at the Kids Space, co-ordinating and working in a First Aid tent (see following section) as well as helping with police liaison and peacekeeping at the actions. We were available to help with facilitation, conflict resolution and mediation within the camp as well. Due to Pt'chang's visible presence close to the road at the first camp site, we also spent lots of time entertaining the many workers from the uranium mine who were visiting (at all hours) to find out what Roxstop was about and to have a friendly chat. One incident involved a heated argument between a Roxby mine worker and an activist that two Pt'chang peacekeepers ended up intervening in. Pt'chang's intervention was not considered appropriate by the activist involved however, so a few days later, a small de-briefing/mediation session was held for that person and the two Pt'chang people involved.

For me, the highlight of this first camp at Roxby was the visit by seven Kokatha women the morning after the actions, who told stories, sang, danced and talked about their concerns for the land.

Alberrie Creek

The second camp was 140 kms further North, at Alberrie Creek on the Oodnadatta Track. Flat, windy, beautiful mound springs country where we had a live music festival one night and a huge dusk to midnight tekno rave the next with Robin Cook's spectacular Mutoid 'Radweed' (made from an old windmill) spouting flames high into the desert night.

During the days there was an art exhibition and seemingly constant tours to the many Mound Springs in the vicinity and to the vast Lake Eyre South. The focus of this music festival was to offer support and solidarity to the Arabunna people who have been trying to prevent WMC damaging the precious and internationally recognised Mound Springs by pumping out so much artesian water for the mine. Pt'chang's primary roles at this camp were First Aid and providing some mediation for one of the affinity groups.

Debrief and Evaluation

An evaluation session near the end of the Festival included an observation by an experienced activist that there was no de-briefing available after the two intense main actions at Roxby Downs which involved activist being dragged by the police, an arrest and a physical assault. This is perhaps something that Pt'chang could have organised and offered if we had pre-planned the role and something we could implement at future events we are involved in. After the Roxby actions, however, Pt'chang peacekeepers were just as tired and in need of rest as any of the other activists!

The whole trip was both hard, challenging and exhilarating for us in Pt'chang. The long road journey, the length of the event and the level of self-reliance required, meant there were many logistical problems along the way, and personal issues and conflicts arose within our small group by the end of the trip. Whilst much of this was discussed and dealt with in the group debriefings that we held after our return, some of these issues remain unresolved for some people at the time of writing, including a \$400 debt incurred when one of the vehicles hit a kangaroo on the return journey.

Other issues raised during the de-briefings were the necessity of forming solid group agreements before embarking on such a long, and challenging project as a small affinity group, defining our roles and tasks more clearly, and hav-



ing a financial back up plan for emergency requirements.

Overall, the Roxstop Desert Action/Festival was very successful in challenging the myth that uranium mining is safe for workers by engaging the very people most affected, built further links with the unions involved at the mine and strongly supported the Kokotha and Arabunna people in their struggles with WMC. It successfully intervened physically in the WMC expansion program, gained widespread national media coverage and was an important step in reinvigorating the Australian anti- uranium movement.

For Pt'chang, Roxstop saw us move interstate for the first time, work in an intense direct action context, work on a national issue (with a wide variety of people and groups involved) and perform a valuable and needed role that has since become a model for the community safety and peacekeeping aspect of the Jabiluka Blockade at Kakadu NT. (March to December 1998).

As a group we have learnt much. Individually we have gained heaps of experience and as a consequence I feel we have grown much stronger as a group.

An excellent 30min SBS video of Roxstop will give more of an idea of what it was like. Ring Friends of the Earth (FOE) Anti -Uranium Collective on 9419 8700 to borrow a copy.

A big 'Thanks!' to all the people who supported Pt'chang in our fundraising efforts before we left!

Anthony Kelly

First Aid - Healing space

Creating a healing space in conjunction with Pt'chang at Roxstop felt positive and useful. The intended purpose was to provide medical assistance, a supportive 'chill out' space and counselling. The massage table was used continuously throughout the ten day camp. Healings of energetic/meditational orientation, and therapeutic massage for pulled muscles etc were given. Also there were quite a few people requiring counselling or simple nurturing support.

The request for treatment greatly increased by the second camp at Alberrie Creek. Wounds, skin rashes, dehydration, infected prickles, a constipated baby, a man in severe pain with a slipped disc, asthma and so on, were alleviated with the range of natural remedies available. Also the space and the massage table attracted other healers, people wanting to share their caring skills.

Raven Blackwood

*Fundraising event for
Pt'chang at Roxstop*

metagenesis

djs: ollie olsen, will e tell, dee dee, steve law, krusty, cd jay, jungle, moon, andrez.
live: honeysmack (smelly records), continuum, sugar, fractal glider.
installations by mutoid waste co, space between the gaps, psycorroboree and more. pt'chang community safety benefit. supporting roxstop. spring eve. sunday august 31. 9pm - 5am. \$5/\$7. paladin. 629 bourke st melbourne. more info 03 5348 4057



NEW YEAR'S CONFEST SAFETY PROJECT 97/98

Hard upon the heels of Pt'chang's Roxstop safety project came the early preparation for Pt'chang's ongoing presence at the large annual ConFest over the New Year period.

ConFest - for those who are yet to experience it, is a large, annual, week-long, outdoor festival that is essentially a celebration of the diversity and vibrancy of alternative communities. For over twenty years, ConFest has been held at a rural site somewhere in Northern Victoria or Southern New South Wales and contains a heady mix of music, workshops, craft and food markets, partying, techno raves, swimming, and living in an outdoor environment with anywhere between five to ten thousand people for a week.

Although ConFest is billed as a celebration of 'alternative lifestyles', a similar range community safety issues exist at each festival that are prevalent in mainstream society. At previous ConFests, Pt'chang has intervened in a range of incidents including sexual assaults, child abuse, physical assaults, drug overdoses, dangerous fires, minor accidents, conflicts between various parties and individuals and untended dogs. The ConFest Safety Project does not imply that ConFest is a particularly unsafe environment. Over such a large festival over such a long period of time, many such incidents are to be expected. The existence of an organised Community Safety group such as Pt'chang at ConFest simply reflects the fact that both the ConFest community and the organisers (Down to Earth) are taking responsibility by recognising, anticipating and preparing appropriate responses to these safety incidents.

The Organising Collective

By November '97 a small Organising Collective had been formed consisting of Kim Cosmos, Melissa Noonan, Anthony Kelly and Meaghan Frost. This Organising Collective began meeting weekly and set about preparing a basic budget to be submitted to Down To Earth (DTE), organise and publicise a Pt'chang Training weekend and planning the roles and functions of Pt'chang' ConFest Safety Project. With only two months before the ConFest, the challenge was to build on the experience gained at the previous two ConFests, involve many more new people and draw enough experienced Pt'chang volunteers back to make the Safety Project just as effective.

Publicity for the Project

A Pt'chang Training for new volunteers was set for the second weekend of December (Friday 12 to Sunday 14) at the regular venue at 124 Napier St, Fitzroy and the publicity for this weekend became the main publicity and outreach for the ConFest Safety Project.

Publicity for the Training and the ConFest Safety Project began with small ads in the Friends Of the Earth Newsletter, brief items in Brother-Sister, The Melbourne Star Observer and through posters, flyers, a notice on the DTE website and, of course, the old 'word of mouth'.

The extent and type of publicity of each safety project is important as it effects the type of people that eventually become involved. Over the last two years Pt'chang has primarily directed it's publicity toward organisations and



readerships that have some connection with ConFest or have some sort of activist/social change focus. The majority of Pt'chang workers have come from within the ConFest community or from within the environment movement or nonviolence network for these reasons.

Unfortunately, we were unable to place any information in the irregularly published Down To Earth Newsletter due to a communication error within Down To Earth. This meant we missed out on informing the large DTE membership of the upcoming Training. This lack of publicity amongst the 6000 strong membership, who mostly were already aware of Pt'chang's work, was perhaps the primary reason we only had ten participants at the December Training weekend.

Training

The weekend training in December was facilitated by Gazza, Melissa and Anthony. The agenda was based on the original agenda from the first ConFest Safety Project training in 1996 with some changes and modifications.

The weekend contained a mix of the following topics:

Background and history of Pt'chang

Power-over / power-with

Defining 'safety' for ourselves

Active listening skills

Conflict Resolution

Basic Mediation skills

The roles of Peacekeeping

Assertive Behaviour

Body-Centred Awareness

Nonviolent interventions

Roleplays

Looking after ourselves

Dealing with fear

Area coverage skills

The Sunday also included a section on Alcohol and Drugs and Harm-minimisation presented by Micheal Arnold from Ravesafe and a presentation taken by Nikki Bisogni from Prahan Mission about mental health issues and responding to people with mental health problems.

Pt'chang's Role at ConFest

During the last few DTE meetings leading up to ConFest it became apparent that there was a considerable amount of confusion amongst DTE directors, and other organisers. The confusion seemed to be primarily over the role of Pt'chang in Fire Safety at ConFest, the difference between 'safety' and 'security', our protocol about dealing with dogs on site, and police liaison.

In an attempt to clarify these issues, the Organising Collective wrote a small leaflet entitled, "Pt'chang's Role at ConFest" (see next page) and distributed about 30 copies at the last DTE meeting before ConFest and up at the ConFest site. Unfortunately, due to the workload of many of the DTE organisers and that many of them were already at the ConFest site by the last meeting in Melbourne, the leaflet was not widely read and did little to clear up the confusion over Pt'chang's role. Much of the confusion continued through ConFest



and, in an effort to discuss and clear up some of these issues a Pt'chang / DTE meeting was held on Saturday 28 February 1998 at CERES in Melbourne.

Eighteen people attended the all day meeting which did much to clarify and address many of the concerns, conflicts and confusion but certainly not all. Many of the remaining issues were later dealt with leading up to and during the Easter ConFest in April. At Easter ConFest there was much more liaison between Pt'chang and the team at front gate with a pre-ConFest meeting about police liaison and front gate issues proving very beneficial. One important decision to come out of that meeting was having Trevor at Front Gate as the DTE Police Liaison person and Anthony and Chris and the Pt'chang Police Liaison so both groups knew which person to consult with when dealing with a police issue. This immediately cleared up much of the confusion surrounding police issues that occurred at New Year's.

Confidentiality Issues:

There was quite a lot of confusion and criticism aimed at Pt'chang over the issue of confidentiality at ConFest. One of the main criticisms was that Pt'chang have a policy of not disclosing identifying personal details that are recorded in the Incident Reports to people who have not been directly involved in the actual incident (including Pt'chang volunteers). Incident Reports are filled in after any significant incidents at ConFest as a routine procedure.

It is important to note that all Pt'chang workers are required to write the incident reports so that we have a record of what we do and how we have responded to the varying incidents. It is important for the purposes of keeping accurate records and building a map of safety issues over time. They are also necessary to be kept as legal records in the case of any incident involving legal proceedings or litigation. The incident reports are considered legal documents as they are signed, dated and witnessed statements.

There are a number of important reasons that Pt'chang do not disclose these details to persons not involved in the actual incidents, the most important one being protecting the confidentiality of the people who were involved. It is an essential part of Pt'chang work that we are able to create an atmosphere of trust and understanding with the people we interact with. If we were unable to guarantee them confidentiality this would be severely compromised. It is also an integral part of the protocols engaged in medical, psychological, and legal practices. As such it is a responsibility which we must fully embrace if we are to be taken seriously within and without the ConFest community.

Pt'chang wishes to make it clear that we are in no way unwilling to disclose the general features of incidents that may be of interest or importance to DTE or the ConFest community in general (see Pt'chang Report 97/98). We do however need to continue to protect confidentiality by removing any identifying personal details in these descriptions. For this reason we cannot allow persons outside Pt'chang to directly view the incident reports themselves, as these reports contain these personal details.

The radio log collected throughout ConFest is a public document as it is a record of the calls and responses of radio traffic throughout ConFest. This is available for DTE archives, and for the perusal of anyone who wishes to view it.

Melissa Noonan and Anthony Kelly



Leaflet
Distributed
December 97

Pt'chang's Role at ConFest 97198

In order to clarify Pt'chang's role at ConFest and our relationship with DTE we have written the following..

Pt'chang's role at ConFest

At ConFest this year, Pt'chang will operate from the Pt'chang Village and Base Tent and respond to incidents as they arise. as we are notified over the radios, from reporting at the Base Tent and from limited site patrols (as numbers allow), We will carry out peacekeeping (interrupting and reducing violence), conflict resolution, mediation upon request, crisis counselling and other support roles as required. We will work closely with and assist First Aid. If numbers allow we will operate 24 hours for the duration of ConFest, or on a 'standby' basis overnight if necessary.

We will also conduct training and community safety workshops from the Pt'chang village.

Pt'chang and 'Security'

Pt'chang's primary aim is to help make ConFest a place where everybody can feel safe. There has been confusion within DTE about whether or not we are security'. Pt'chang's concept of 'nonviolent community safety' extends far beyond the mainstream definitions of "security" which rarely means much more than maintaining or enforcing order. Whilst Pt'chang volunteers will respond to and effectively deal with incidents that a 'Security Officer' would, such as drunk and aggressive people, our role also includes support, crisis counselling, conflict resolution, mediation and co-ordinating safety initiatives that 'security' approaches do not include. It is worth comparing the two concepts.

Pt'chang

Participants come from the community and have intimate knowledge of it.

Uses co-operative empowering processes 'Power-with'

Trained in creative nonviolent interventions, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and communication skills.

Perspective. "we are all responsible for creating safety"

Training in Drug an Alcohol issues - harm .minimisation approach

Emphasises support, counselling, debriefing and well-being of the person.

Responsible and accountable to the ConFest Community.

Includes women and men.

A part of ConFest and in keeping with the 'ConFest Spirit'

Security - Crowd Controller

Professionals from outside the community.

Uses "bluff, threats and the law" - 'Power-over'

Poor to no training in communication skills, and trained to resort to self-defence and the police.

Perspective. elite professionals - "we know what to do".

NO training apart from legal matters.

Conservative approach.

Emphasises quick-fix solution - maintaining order.

Ultimately responsible to the boss of security company or whoever's paying them.

Male dominated industry

Antithesis of ConFest



Pt'chang and Police

Pt'chang will call the police in an incident that Pt'chang volunteers cannot handle. However, if Pt'chang peacekeepers are dealing with an incident and

the police are called without the knowledge or consent of those peacekeepers, the situation can escalate rapidly and the peacekeepers endangered. Also, if police are called to the site for numerous minor incidents their enthusiasm to respond to a crisis situation may be diminished. For these reasons, Pt'chang strongly urges DTE and others to consult with Pt'chang before calling the police for any reason during ConFest.

Pt'chang and Fire Safety

Last year's ConFest saw 90% of Pt'chang's energy - with 40 trained volunteers go into fire safety, regular fire patrols that covered the whole site, responding to out of control fires and maintaining and co-ordinating fire equipment. This was to the detriment of other Pt'chang roles - such as supporting people in crisis, conflict resolution, training workshops and many other issues. Pt'chang made 9 Fire Safety Recommendations to DTE in the Pt'chang Report.

This year Pt'chang is de-escalating its role in Fire Safety and attempting to spread the responsibility to the wider DTE and ConFest community. Apart from being involved in pre-ConFest planning and implementing a Fire Safety Strategy, Pt'chang workers will respond to fires and fire safety issues just as any

other ConFester would. Co-ordination and implementation of fire equipment and fire response is the responsibility of the Fire Safety Working Group.

Pt'chang and Dogs

Pt'chang recognises that DTE's No Pets Policy is important for health, safety and ecological reasons. We also recognise that, despite the policy, people will bring pets to ConFest and a sensible and workable response needs to be found. Whilst Pt'chang will not carry out a role of 'enforcing' that DTE policy the things we will do are:

- Liaise with the local Ranger or Council dog catcher,
- Arrange a nearby landowner to act as a dog pound for the duration of ConFest,
- Arrange a large 'No Pets' sign at Front Gate,
- Produce a leaflet - 'Why No pets at ConFest?' - that will explain the policy and options for those who have brought pets with them to ConFest - produce poster size versions and distribute to people found with pets.
- Arrange an interim Dog Area near Front gate for stray dogs and from where the ranger can pick up the animals. - shade, bathtub, and chain.
- Purchase dog collars and leads to handle dogs when needed,
- Only deal with dogs on site when 1) they are unattended or stray, 2) when they pose a safety problem or 3) when they become an issue to another person.

Our expectations of DTE;

that DTE will inform and liaise with Pt'chang regarding safety and Pt'chang related issues as they arise at ConFest,

that DTE will inform and consult with Pt'chang if a DTE Director intends to call the police for any reason,

that DTE will inform Pt'chang of any relevant meetings arising at ConFest,

that DTE members and Directors treat Pt'chang volunteers respectfully,

that DTE not refer to Pt'chang as 'security' in literature and in public communications.

What DTE can expect of Pt'chang;

that Pt'chang will work to the best of our abilities to fulfil our roles,

that Pt'chang will liaise and consult with DTE consistently and openly,

that Pt'chang will take into consideration the needs, concerns and legal obligations of DTE Directors and members in it's decisions,

that Pt'chang will seek to remain impartial and neutral on many issues in order to play a mediator's role if required,

that Pt'chang will seek to remain accountable and responsible to all parts of the wider ConFest community,

that Pt'chang volunteers will not put themselves under undue stress, Pressure or overload that will effect our health and safety,

that Pt'chang volunteers will behave respectfully to all DTE members and Directors.



AT NEW YEAR 98 CONFEST



There were initially about 15 people involved in Pt'chang at Confest. On the Tuesday, Pt'chang ran a workshop and recruited new volunteers. This led to about 25 people being involved with Pt'chang over the course of Confest. Pt'chang was on duty from about 11pm 28 December until 7am 5 January.

Shifts were initially organised so that 2 pairs were on duty with radios at any one time, 1 person was on comms, and further people were available via pager for backup or counselling. Shifts were mostly of 5 hours duration. The total number of person hours worked during Confest on scheduled shifts was approximately 600. Unscheduled hours spent in follow-up, backup and other tasks were in addition to this. Although some volunteers did not continue and others were somewhat marginally involved, a significant number of people put in hours well in excess of the 5-6 hours/day that most people had indicated they wished to work.

From the second of January there was a somewhat decreased need for Pt'chang. This combined with difficulty in filling all shifts led to a policy of focussing primarily on evening and night shifts for patrols, with people available via pager at other unfilled times.

On two occasions, due to exhaustion of members, Pt'chang comms was available only on a back-up channel from about 2:30 am to 9am. This allowed the comms person to sleep lightly with the radio beside them. On these occasions messages were left with First Aid, and a radio was left with First Aid to allow contact of Pt'chang on the backup channel.

Incidents

Most major incidents requiring extended periods of time to resolve were recorded in some detail on incident sheets. There were 34 such incidents. More minor incidents attended to by Pt'chang were recorded in the comms log book, along with other information. Minor incidents that were not associated with any radio communications were usually not recorded. There were 103 minor incidents recorded.

The table on the following page shows a breakdown of incidents by type. Each incident is recorded in only one category. It should be noted that for some of the categories (such as fire) there were many more unrecorded incidents than recorded.

There were 7 particularly serious incidents. These were 4 cases of seriously violent males one of whom was tripping and one who was apparently psychotic, a case of suspected paedophilia, a pair of men who were sexually intimidating women under the guise of massage, and the incidents surrounding Techno.



Summary of Incidents

Incident Category	Minor Incidents	Major Incidents	Category Total
Physical Violence	-	1	1
Aggression, harassment, conflict, potential violence	19	13	32
Victim support	4	4	8
Lost people	4	3	7
Sexual intimidation/abuse	-	4	4
Counselling/ mediation	2	1	3
Communication help (first aid, water, equipment, etc.)	10	-	10
Candles and fires	10	-	10
Border incidents (boats/spotlighters)	5	-	5
First aid	4	4	8
Paging doctor	6	-	6
Cats and dogs	11	-	11
Camper Assistance	4	-	4
Police and fire liaison 2	7	-	7
Cars on site	4	-	4
Other (video, stolen goods, techno, falling branches, etc.)	13	4	17
Total	103	34	137

1. Many more unrecorded incidents than recorded.
2. Additional unrecorded incidents.

Compiled by Lin Padgham



CONFEST FIRE SAFETY STRATEGY

Introduction

This is a draft Fire Safety Strategy based on Pt'chang's experience observations and liaison with numerous people. It was presented to DTE in November 1997 for the upcoming New Years' ConFest. Although many of these points were implemented by the fire safety crew leading up to and during ConFest and the purchase of fire fighting pumps was a fantastic initiative there is still a lack of a comprehensive ConFest fire safety strategy that can be implemented for each and every ConFest simply and effectively. We have included this chapter as an example of what such a strategy could look like. Thanks to Simon Freidin, DTE site co-ordinator for his excellent work in this area.

Prevention

- Step 1) **LEAFLETS** Produce approximately 8,000 clear, concise A5 'Fire Safety' leaflets encouraging people to use communal firepits, outlining a 'safe fire pit' - and fire safety advice - etc. to be handed out to every ticket holder at the Front Gate.
 COST: \$200
- Step 2) **SIGNAGE** Make (or have made) large, clear, readable and weather - proof signs stating the following :
- | | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| FIRES IN SAFE FIREPITS ONLY | X 40 |
| PUT OUT YOUR FIRES AT NIGHT | X 20 |
| SHARE FIRES BEFORE MAKING MORE | X 20 |
| COMMUNAL FIREPIT HERE | X 20 |
| TOTAL FIRE BAN TODAY | X 20 |
- plus 3 large signs picturing a 'safe' firepit and giving instructions
 These signs need to be made BEFORE ConFest, be put up as part of the site set up. TOTAL FIRE BAN TODAY signs to be stored in the Information Tent until a TFB day is declared.
 COST: \$500
- Step 3) **COMMUNAL FIREPITS** As part of the site layout, enough communal firepits are to be dug to cater for every village and large group. We should aim to get them spaced throughout the site so they are accessible to everyone. They should be dug by backhoe - 3 foot wide , 2 foot deep and cleared over 3 metres all around. They should be in large open area clear of trees, in the centre of each Village. A work team could rake each pit and place COMMUNAL FIRE PIT HERE signs nearby.
 COST: BACKHOE HIRE
- Step 4) **FIRE PATROLS** 30 to 40 volunteers walking around the site at dusk, approaching each fire and talking with the people around it about fire safety, checking whether they have a safe fire, bucket of water nearby and offering help if not. Also asking if they will put it out before they leave it. Very important task! Can be done in Shifts - by Pt'chang volunteers and/or by the people trained in fire-fighting skills. These patrols will also be responsible for ensuring that any Total Fire Ban days are observed.



Response - Ability



- STEP 5) TRAINING Volunteer Fire fighting training for about 30 to 40 ConFest volunteers - prior to ConFest - Taken by trainers from the NSW Bush Fire Brigade and/or Darrel Holmes, a whole day spent learning about fire behaviour, how to put out fires and how to use various pieces of equipment. Possibly forming into teams and developing fire response plans.
- STEP 6) FIRE DRUMS AND BUCKETS 20 to 30 Red fire drums placed evenly throughout the ConFest site, filled with water, detergent, and 5 buckets hooked onto the side of each one with wire. These are crucial for people to put out their own fires and are the 'first response' for a fire that gets out of control.
COST: \$30 RED AND BLACK PAINT PLUS 150 BUCKETS
- STEP 7) COMMUNICATION It is important that clear and open communication be established with the local Bush Fire Brigade prior to ConFest. A mobile phone needs to be available for emergency calls 24hours a day with the BFB phone number clearly visible. The ConFest radio network is also crucial for early warning of a fire. A megaphone should be made available for alerting large numbers of people quickly.
- STEP 8) MANUAL FIRE - FIGHTING EQUIPMENT The following equipment needs to be bought or borrowed from the BFB before ConFest in time for the training day above.
- 50 hessian sacks
 - 20 Polaski tools
 - 20 Macleod's tools
 - 40 eye safety goggles
 - 20 dust masks
 - 20 litres detergent
 - 150 buckets with wire handles
- STEP 9) POWERED FIRE - FIGHTING EQUIPMENT An adequate combination of the following equipment should be arranged and guaranteed to be on site prior to ConFest starting.
- 2 x Quad bikes with water tanks and pumps - in working order
 - 2 x petrol/diesel powered water pumps and adequate hoses that can be carried on trolleys to a fire site.
 - Local road-building water truck & pump arranged to be left on site
 - Murray's water truck and pump to be brought on site
 - Bush Fire Brigade fire-fighting vehicle to be left on site when ever possible.
- STEP 10) CO-ORDINATION A 'Fire Safety Working Group' be formed to arrange the above Fire Safety strategy, to manage and account for the Fire Budget and to Co-ordinate the training, equipment, planning and response to fires during ConFest. In order to share the responsibility, decision making and educational aspects, this group could be made up of Pt'chang volunteers, DTE festival co-ordinators and general festival participants. Also report and evaluate so we can learn for next year.



RECLAIM THE STREETS

Imagine standing on a street in the middle of Melbourne's CBD, stepping onto the road, and not having to worry about being hit by a car, not having to scream to be heard above the traffic noise.

Impossible? Not if you were in Victoria St. outside RMIT on the 28th of March 1998 it wasn't.

At around 12:00 PM on the 28th, a group of people started to form in the Carlton Gardens, busily organising the final touches to what would be Melbourne's first Reclaim The Streets event. Detour signs were unloaded from vans and trucks, poles for the tripods were split up, and radios were handed out and checked. 2 main groups formed early on, Streets for People, who organised the day, and Pt'Chang, who were helping with peacekeeping and first aid. Both groups knew what had to be done, and were busy doing it.

By 1:30, about 750 people had grouped, and the excitement had risen. The police had made a showing, and the team of police liaison people from SFP and Pt'Chang were in the process of explaining what would happen. Apart from not knowing where the location of the street was, the police seemed to be quite cheery about the whole thing.

That was soon to change

A group of speakers gave a talk to the crowd, who by now had swelled to around 1000, and then it began. The crowd split into two groups and made its separate ways from the gardens, picking up signs and poles as they went. Two lanes of traffic were blocked as each group marched, sang, chanted and generally flowed down to Victoria Street, and moved in to take over from the cars.

Signs went up, stages were erected, tents grew, and the police fumed, as 1000 people transformed a Saturday afternoon traffic jam into a street party. The police liaison team went to work, trying to calm the Sergeant (and eventually the Superintendent), explaining that no one was 'in charge', no one was 'in control', and that no one could tell the crowd to stop and go home. It appears that the police don't have any idea how most community groups work. Eventually, after almost an hour of screaming from the police, we were told that they couldn't arrest us all, and that the street party could continue (as if they had the final decision).

What followed were six hours of dancing, singing, and general enjoyment. Giant balls bounced their way along the road, people sat in the middle of the street to listen to the live bands, others danced non-stop to the live "Doof". It was a sight that I would not have imagined possible, if I hadn't been there myself. It was great to see that so many people were willing to help.

The peacekeepers had a great time walking around, with absolutely no trouble from the crowd. First Aid had their share of minor injuries, both blockading teams did a great job of keeping traffic out of the way and liaison teams were kept on their toes with the police doing their best to annoy the organisers. And it ran smoooooooooth.

At 7:00 PM, it started to wind down, with stages and signs being removed, and the crowd slowly dispersing. By 8:30, it was as if nothing had happened,



with cars and trucks roaring up and down Victoria St, smoke belching out of their exhausts.

Some of the crowd made their way to the Flagstaff Gardens for a small after-party, stories being swapped about the days events, music and dancing continued on, but there was a mellowness in the crowd, Yes, we had reclaimed the street, but it was only for the afternoon.

I rode back to Victoria St. the next day, just to have a look. It was sad to stand in the middle of the previous day's party, with traffic screaming past, and not being able to see a trace of the party. Maybe we should leave some kind of reminder next time, something that will remain behind to let people know that cars do not rule the streets.

People do!

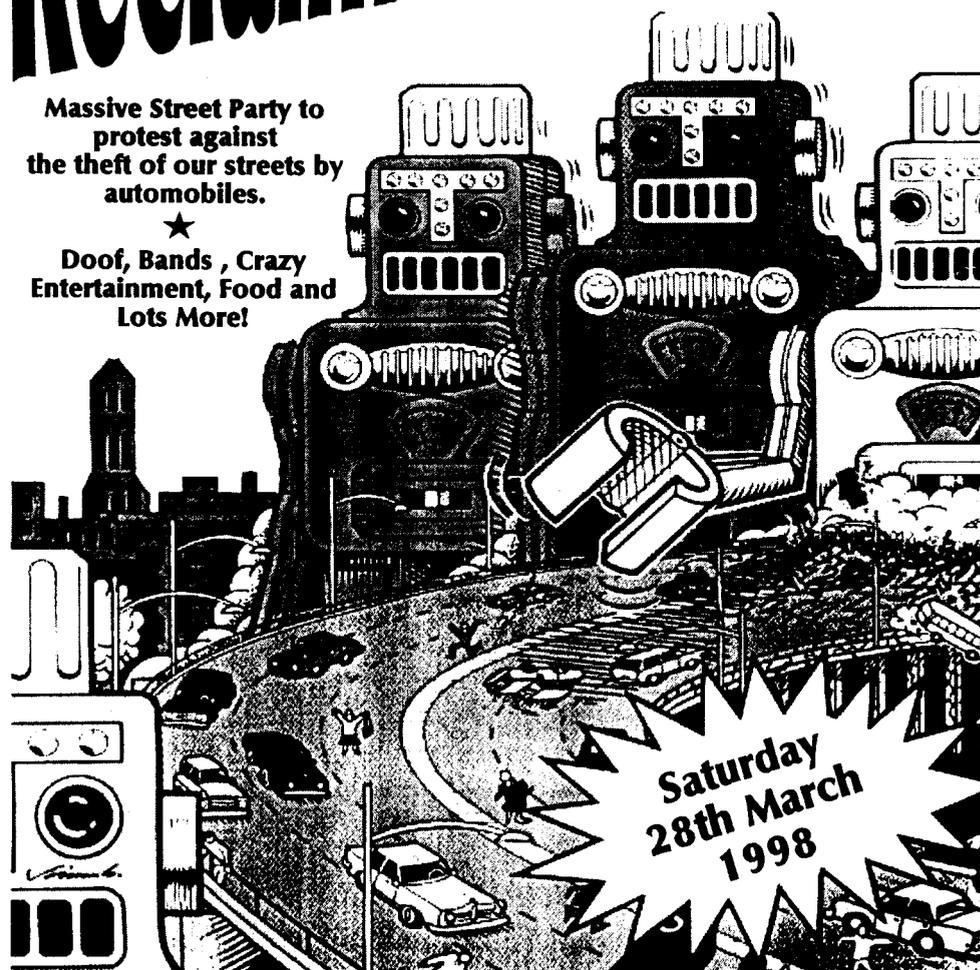
Paul Mirtschin

Reclaim The Streets!

**Massive Street Party to
protest against
the theft of our streets by
automobiles.**

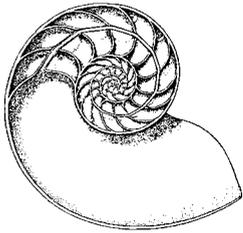


**Doof, Bands, Crazy
Entertainment, Food and
Lots More!**





EASTER CONFEST 1998



This Easter ConFest proved to be a positive, fun and challenging experience for Pt'chang. We recruited new volunteers and improved on our already strong working and social relationships within the group. We further developed our skills for responding effectively to incidents and empowering ConFesters to create a safe space for themselves. The importance and value of Pt'chang as part of the ConFest community was affirmed in many ways

This year there were fewer experienced Pt'changers involved in Easter ConFest, so many newcomers took on more central roles and quickly learned the ropes. Preparation for ConFest was a little rushed due to our involvement in Reclaim the Streets (and April definitely came around earlier this year), but we still managed to get everything organised in time.

Altogether there were 21 people working in Pt'chang Village at Easter, covering a wide range of experience and skill levels, some new faces joining in after taking part in the on-site Pt'chang training.

Easter ConFest was a smaller and quieter affair than New Year's but as usual we operated a 24 hour roster so we all worked long hours. Despite this, group energy and morale were high for the whole duration. As experience within the group grows, Pt'chang as a team becomes ever more efficient, organised and emphasises more and more the importance of the balance between energy use and rejuvenation. One way of achieving such balance was frequent visits to the front gate hot-tub in our spare time.

This ConFest, the Naturopathic Healing Space was incorporated into the Pt'chang Village for the first time. Raven had two marquees, one for counselling, the other equipped with herbal and homeopathic remedies and a massage table. She was kept very busy for the whole of ConFest, treating and supporting ConFesters far and wide. The healing space played an important role in group maintenance within Pt'chang and proved an welcome and invaluable service for the whole ConFest community. There are definite plans to make this a permanent part of the Pt'chang Village.

Leading up to and during Easter ConFest, many steps were taken to improve relations between Pt'chang and DTE including a Front Gate meeting, and the establishment of a Police Liaison Protocol which worked well throughout the festival. The new workers kitchen set-up helped greatly by ensuring we all bumped into each other several times a day. Chatting for hours in the hot-tub didn't hurt either!!

April weather was a mixed blessing. Cooler temperatures meant less stress all round although we had to put a lot of time and energy into Fire Safety Education. A day-long deluge threw ConFest into chaos. Many people tried to leave but quickly became bogged. Many more stayed but were flooded out of their tents and campsites. The Pt'chang kitchen became a smoke-filled mud bath, but luckily the rain cleared quickly.

The most significant incident at Easter ConFest was a fatal accident, which occurred in the front paddock late one evening. This is discussed later in the report, suffice to say that it had a huge impact on everyone involved and its effects were far reaching, touching all ConFesters and locals. Pt'chang members attended the accident scene and were also involved in extensive debriefing and counselling for both its own members and those of DTE.

Vanessa Toy and Liz Scarfe



The Accident

A tragic fatal motor vehicle accident occurred in the early hours of Sunday 12 April. At around 1.30am on the Sunday morning, five local men in a 4 wheel drive ute attempted to enter the ConFest site whilst highly intoxicated. They spoke with D.T.E. volunteers at the front gate for a while before being asked to leave. At this point they became aggravated and drove off towards the front of the property. The Pt'chang Radio Log first records Trevor from front gate asking them to leave at 2.05am after which Pt'chang responded. In the front paddock alongside the road the driver started to do "doughnuts", before hitting a checkbank and rolling the vehicle.

Trevor radioed in the accident and called for two ambulances at approximately 2.15am and he and Rod from the front gate were the first at the scene. Anthony was the first Pt'changer to arrive, with Serge, Gwiachmai and myself arriving soon after. We began to apply first aid on the 3 people who were thrown from the back of the ute, lying within 10 metres of the vehicle. Two were in a very bad state. One conscious with head injuries, one unconscious with laboured breathing and the third with minor shoulder injuries. The driver and front cabin passenger were unharmed and trying to comfort their injured friends. All were locals and in their early to mid twenties. The first aid training of those at the scene was playing a big part in one of the men's injuries being stabilised. There were soon people with all the injured maintaining their airways and monitoring their breathing. Within minutes there were several other people (David, Robert, Rick, Jessika, Michael, Murry and others) supporting and helping at the scene, holding flashlights, arranging an entrance for the emergency vehicles and assisting with first aid. Others at the Front Gate (Bree and Graham St John) were calling emergency services whilst Vanessa at Pt'chang Comms was paging medical assistance. Lorë was the first medically trained person to arrive after being paged with Doctor Marc's pager not working. (*The Air-Viva resuscitation equipment was not at an accessible location back at ConFest First Aid so could not be found and taken to the scene.*) It took approximately 30 minutes for the first ambulance to arrive, and we then assisted the ambulance officers with treatment of the injured before they were taken to the hospital. The whole incident took place over around an hour and a half. Most made their way back to their camps. Anthony and myself stopped at the main camp to talk to some of the D.T.E. members who had been involved, and an impromptu debrief took place. At around 5am, we made it back to the Pt'chang Communications tent. The next morning came around all too soon, with notification coming from the local police of the death of one of the victims. The driver of the vehicle had been charged with a series of high range driving offenses.

Group Debrief

By lunch, the Pt'Chang tent was the site of a large debrief, facilitated by Lin and Dean, where all those involved in the accident could clarify what happened and share perspectives and feelings about the the incident. This was another instance of debriefing being very much needed, with many people being assisted through this traumatic time.

I would like to thank all those who assisted at the accident scene, at the debrief, and to all those who lent an much needed shoulder in those hours and days afterwards. This was an unfortunate incident, but one that we endured with very few problems and something we learned a lot from. Hopefully it never happens again, but if it does, I believe that Pt'chang will be ready for it.

Paul Mirtchsin



A NEWCOMERS' PERSPECTIVE ON EASTER CONFEST 98



I had a sense of being involved in a community that was active on many levels within the community, this was the Pt'Chang Confest Safety Project. I was really impressed that Pt'Chang was not only concerned with encouraging community responsibility and safety, but backed this up with whole-hearted support within its internal dynamics. There were plenty of opportunities for learning, access to on-going training, team workshops, centring techniques, and recognition of spirituality and connection with the earth among other things.

As newcomers we were initiated into the group via a workshop to familiarise us with Pt'Chang. Some of the areas covered included what defines Pt'Chang and the aims of the group. Everyone contributed to a definition of what it means to be safe and how this could be encouraged. We role-played various scenarios and possible ways of approaching/dealing with them. Finally how to look out for each other while on response patrol.

Many of us from the workshop wanted to work with Pt'chang so we were rostered on in 'response teams'. As part of these teams, we attended various incidences. Examples include where people may have felt unsafe, accidents, unsafe fires, looking for lost loved ones and so on. Communications (Comms.) back at Pt'Chang Village stayed as anchor on the main radio. They recorded a log of events in progress and stayed in touch with the people out on patrol as well as being on call to provide additional help if required (ie medics doctors, nurses, police etc.).

I felt at all times in Pt'chang there was a respect and space given to allow people to speak openly about their concerns or suggestions. I felt heard not just with everyone's ears, but hearts. The working environment encouraged learning, sharing of experiences, briefing and debriefing. There was a sense of comradeship while on response, for instance, to be always aware where other team members were and their situation. Whatever you were doing you had a chance to have a go at it yourself, but never needed to be on your own. As a last say, working with "smooth and easy" Liz (Scarfe) was a blast. I got a taste of how to put out fires and deal with the campers afterwards. Later on in the night, I had first hand experience of "the master" at work both educating and networking with DTE organisers. Thanks Pt'Chang.

Serge Sapozhnikov



PT CHANG FINANCIAL REPORT 97/98

Down To Earth's continued financial support has been crucial to Pt'chang's activities over the past few years, the 1997-98 financial year being no exception.

DTE wholly funded both New Year's and Easter Confest Safety Projects (major breakdowns below) and partially funded Pt'chang's involvement in Roxstop.

Major Breakdown	NEW YEAR	EASTER
Training - venues	111.00	10.00
- catering	445.00	27.10
- materials	180.20	135.90
- facilitation	270.00	
Administration		
- photocopying	157.35	153.10
- stationary	103.33	90.75
- fax/postage	108.05	131.25
Patrol Equipment	115.50	226.18
Transport	121.07	80.00
Village Costs	175.17	84.90
Healing space	-	395.57
Debriefing	150.00	150.00
Report	150.00	150.00
TOTAL	2086.67	1634.75

Pt'chang has now begun the long road of seeking more long term funding as we look to develop new projects. We are discovering (as many other social change groups may have also noticed) that obtaining funds to change the world is an arduous and time-consuming process, but a necessary one none-the-less.

Liz Scarfe



CONCLUSION

Once again, this report represents only a portion of Pt'chang's activities and learning's over the past year. With such a large, active volunteer group involving about eighty people there is always something happening, decisions being made, projects in the pipeline and new ideas being generated.

Pt'chang continues to represent a new and innovative approach to community safety. In our society where top-down, violent social-control approaches continue to dominate, it is crucial that nonviolent, community centred alternatives such as Pt'chang exist. Generally, people at all levels of society are concerned about community safety issues, the level and impact of drug abuse, violence and fear, and want to do something about it. Without viable and effective alternatives, however, video surveillance, private security, deadlocks, dogs, bars, intercom systems, alarms and greater numbers of police will continue to be the most common responses. The bulk of these mainstream and very familiar approaches do little, if anything, to actually create safety on a community level. They fail to address, if not reinforce, the structural violence of poverty, marginalisation and homelessness. If anything, the locks, alarms, videos and uniforms are simply constant, visible reminders of the fear we have of each other.

Pt'chang offers approaches and methods that do not increase people's isolation, or the level of fear and anxiety. Nonviolent Community Safety is essentially the gradual (re)- building of human communities that work. As such, communication skills, community development perspective's and nonviolent community building strategies underpin Pt'chang's work. Our commitment to activist approaches and independence also means Pt'chang maintains an extremely valuable position in the human services/welfare sector (that is increasingly tied to outcome-dependant funding arrangements, restrictive 'confidentiality' agreements and professionalisation).

The challenges we face remain; survival with minimal funding, the transience of a volunteer structure and maintaining our goals and vision over time with the many internal and external pressures. Hopefully, over the coming year, Pt'chang will continue to minimise our 'weaknesses' and build upon our many 'strengths'.

The Next Twelve Months...

The shift of foci from short-term festival/social change projects to Melbourne's vast and diverse inner-city communities is perhaps the most exciting move for Pt'chang for some time and something that will shape our activities and projects over the next 12 months. Pt'chang has just received funding from the Darebin City Council in Melbourne's inner North to conduct a six-week Community Listening Project on safety and violence issues in September/October 1998. This project will involve a series of 'Listening stalls' throughout the suburbs of Darebin outside churches, shopping centres, pinball parlours, etc, staffed by volunteers who will actively listen to people's concerns, ideas, perspective's on anything relating to violence and safety. This will be our first Listening Project and perhaps the first for Melbourne, so yet again, Pt'chang moves into new untried ground.

The newly formed 'Research Team' is somewhat of a Pt'chang 'Think-Tank', generating and collecting ideas as well as the vast amount of information and



knowledge that would be required to organise and co-ordinate a long-term Nonviolent Community Safety Project in the inner-city suburbs of Fitzroy and Collingwood. The findings of the Research Team will form the basis of the eventual decision whether or not to engage in such a large scale safety project sometime in the future.

Pt'chang remains dedicated to developing and improving the ConFest Safety Project and is looking forward to another challenging and rewarding experience at the 98-99 New Year's ConFest.

In the meantime, Pt'chang will continue to seek funds, build our financial structure, do lots of training and skill sharing, develop and improve our internal group processes, have heaps of fun and work steadily toward a safer, sustainable and violence-free world.

Thanks once again to the many people and organisations who supported and helped Pt'chang in countless ways over the past year.

*The Editorial Collective -
Anthony Kelly, Liz Scarfe, Melissa Noonan,
David Alderson and Vanessa Toy. July 1998*



APPENDIX 1 - CONSTITUTION

1. Name: Pt'chang Nonviolent Community Safety Group is also known as Pt'chang.
2. Purpose: Pt'chang seeks to bring about lasting change in peoples ability to create safety in their lives and communities. Pt'chang aims to facilitate empowering, sustainable, nonviolent community safety projects as well as provide much needed resources, training, support and services to grassroots organisations and community groups.
3. Membership: Anyone who is interested in Pt'chang is considered a member.
 - 3.1 Anyone shall be considered a full member who has
 - 3.1.1 paid an annual fee nominated by a resolution distributed with the notice of the general meeting at which it is to be decided
 - 3.1.2 completed a one day Pt'chang training course
 - 3.1.3 does not work against any purposes of the group
 - 3.2 Full membership may be revoked by a resolution distributed with the notice of the general meeting at which it is to be decided by a 75% majority vote
4. Meetings: All General Meetings shall be Special General Meetings.
 - 4.1 The time and location of General Meetings shall be announced to all full members in writing between 21 days and six months in advance. Omission of notice by accident or non-receipt shall not invalidate a meeting.
 - 4.2 Any four full members may call a General meeting.
 - 4.3 Anyone present for a General Meeting can call the meeting to order when there is a quorum of four attendees present. No resolutions or commitments shall be made until 4 full members are present.
 - 4.4 The first business of the meeting shall be to appoint a minute taker for the meeting who shall;
 - 4.4.1 record all resolutions of the meeting.
 - 4.4.2 cause a meeting attendance list to be completed by all those present and kept with the minutes.
5. Decision Making: General Meetings shall attempt unanimous agreement, incorporating all opinions (i.e. consensus).
 - 5.1 Before voting the agreed conflict resolution procedure must be completed. This conflict resolution procedure can only be changed by a resolution distributed with the notice of the general meeting at which it is to be decided.
 - 5.2 a majority rule vote can be demanded by any full member, then the meeting will check to see if more than a quarter of full members present (by a show of hands) overrule voting to keep talking.
 - 5.3 Immediately prior to voting, full membership status shall be checked by a show of hands and may be challenged then.
 - 5.4 Upon full membership being challenged the meeting shall appoint a person to check the challenged persons full membership. The vote may go ahead before challenged full membership is decided. The results of a full membership check shall be taken into account retrospectively when known.
 - 5.5 There shall be no voting by proxy
 - 5.6 The constitution and statement of purposes may only be altered, rescinded or added to by special resolution and _ majority vote
6. The Public Officer: The Public Officer (otherwise known as Bobo or Bobo the Clown) is to be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Upon Bobo giving notice to a General Meeting Bobo may be replaced at the next general meeting. A General Meeting may replace Bobo immediately. Bobo shall;
 - 6.1 ensure all minutes, attendance records, account books and securities are available for any members' perusal, with two weeks notice from them.
 - 6.2 cause a register of current full members to be maintained and kept with the minutes
 - 6.3 cause a regularly updated file of standing agreements to be kept.
 - 6.4 call a General Meeting as soon as possible upon the request of any four full members.
 - 6.5 if there are less than 4 current full members call a General Meeting inviting all previous full members from the last 24 months.
 - 6.6 keep the common seal and jointly with one other payment signatory have the power to use it.
 - 6.7 notify the registrar of any change of
 - 6.7.1 these rules, purposes or name within one month
 - 6.7.2 their own address within 2 weeks
 - 6.8 lodge the Annual General Meeting and financial statements with the registrar within 1



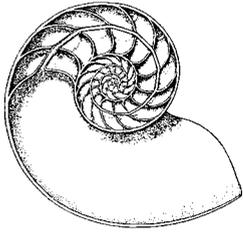
month of each Annual General Meeting.

7. Finances: The assets and income of Pt'chang shall be applied solely in furtherance of its above mentioned purposes and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the organisation except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organisation.
 - 7.1 All payments, cheques and debt contracts on behalf of Pt'chang must be authorised by two signatories except for a one signatory authorisation for a recurrent expenses account.
 - 7.2 Signatories are Bobo and anyone else the general meeting sees fit to appoint. Only the four most recently appointed signatories (other than Bobo) shall be valid.
 - 7.3 Funds may be derived from membership fees and such other sources as any general meeting sees fit.
8. Winding Up or Amalgamation: In the event of winding up or amalgamation, the assets of Pt'chang remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to, or amalgamated with, other organisations having similar purposes and which have rules prohibiting the distribution of their assets and income to their members and are accepted by the Commissioner of Taxation as public benevolent institutions for the purposes of any Commonwealth Taxation Act.
9. Sub Groups: Sub group's constitutions can only be formed or changed or wound up by a resolution distributed with the notice of the Pt'chang general meeting at which it is to be decided.
 - 9.1 These groups must adopt all the rules of this constitution for themselves with the possible exception of rules 1.0, 3.0, 4.0, 4.1, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 9.0. Alternatives for these must be included in their constitution. Additional mandates and name may be added to section 2 of their constitution.
 - 9.2 Their Bobo shall notify the next General Meeting of Pt'chang of any change of these rules, purposes, name or their contact address and lodge their Annual General Meeting and financial statements with the next Pt'chang general meeting.
 - 9.3 Any full member of Pt'chang is a full member of any sub group.

Submitted July 1998 by Kim Cosmos



APPENDIX 2 - A BRIEF HISTORY OF PT'CHANG



“ConFest survives because crises are open to everybody’s magical solutions. The role of Pt’chang at ConFest is to inspire responsibility.”

The very first Easter ConFest, also the first held at Tocumwal, was in March 1992. All the ConFest co-ordinators were new which meant new ideas, a lot to learn and no time to breathe.

When Chris Edwards, a ConFest volunteer, turned up on the second day to do a First Aid shift, the First Aid co-ordinator was going home and said: “Well, you’re it”.

Chris was called out to attend to a person experiencing a crisis who had laid down in a fire. He expanded his awareness in the situation and asked the universe for an answer. “Pt’chang” Chris reminded the person that although she and her friends were insignificant on a universal scale, they were valuable to themselves and others.

A unique and appropriate response and knowing “we are it”, became the philosophy of Pt’chang. Pt’chang is an attitude of constant awareness and the sound of realisation.

At the second Tocumwal ConFest the following year others realised how much help Chris needed and joined “Security” : The first Pt’chang team was formed. By the next ConFest - the first at Moama - ConFesters often perceived that the radios meant Pt’chang were ConFest cops. It took a lot to get across that; “you have nothing to hide, we are here to help you, ask us for anything”.

Pt’chang’s role at this stage was diverse. Helping people included finding tools and equipment, helping set up the site, looking after the front gate and the ‘Welcome’ gate, fire patrols and helping First Aid. It also involved preventing and dealing with the non-paying ‘gate-crashers’ and responding to problems and incidents as they arose.

At the third Tocumwal ConFest, in 1994, Chris didn’t have the support to keep the Pt’chang team together. There was virtually no Pt’chang at that particular ConFest and nobody seemed to notice (luckily). Deciding it was all or nothing, Chris decided at that ConFest to fully commit to DTE and became a director. At Wolfgang’s Palace - an arts community in rural Victoria - on the Solstice, a workshop was held where the Pt’chang philosophy was officially adopted.

At the second Moama ConFest in 1994/5 there were many problems within Pt’chang. This included a person who was dealing in drugs whilst doing Pt’chang work. He was told to leave Pt’chang, but there was still a lot of explaining to Down To Earth to do after ConFest. This situation also meant perceptions about Pt’chang were carried over to other ConFests.

By the third Moama ConFest the following year, Pt’chang realised a kitchen was essential to keep the volunteers well fed and happy. Still, individuals were left with expensive car repairs from ConFest work and many people were working more than 16 hour shifts to keep ConFest safe. Very generously, nobody sued DTE.

At the new Tocumwal site in 1995/96 Pt’chang was a disaster. Within 6 hours an entire Pt’chang campsite had disappeared, some members going home because there was too much work. On New Year’s eve the carpark mud meant vehicles couldn’t move. An advertisement in the Melbourne Age newspaper, promoting a huge ConFest New Year’s Eve Rock Festival, meant that 2000 people with their cars were unable to come in. There was an estimated 12,000 people who bought tickets and several thousand more who entered without paying.

There were many safety issues evident at this ConFest including a sexual assault on New Year’s Eve. The way this sexual assault was handled was largely inappropriate. The fact that large numbers of people found out about it meant large and emotional gatherings of hundreds ConFest participants occurred over the next few days. Many people at these gatherings emphasised the lack of community ability to respond to safety issues at ConFest appropriately. A loud and colourful ‘Reclaim the Night’-style march against sexual assault, with several hundred people, wound its way through the site on the last day.

Chris Edwards made a proposal to DTE after this ConFest to fund a Security Guard Training Course for ten people involved in Pt’chang as well as a weekend Conflict Resolution Course for all the DTE Directors. This proposal later became combined with the ConFest Safety Project proposal.

In late 1996, just prior to the New Year’s ConFest, the ConFest Safety Project merged with the existing Pt’chang team to create a newer, different and larger Pt’chang but still retaining the many skills, working knowledge and experience gained over the past six years of ConFests.

Kim Cosmos and Chris Edwards



APPENDIX 3 - NONVIOLENT COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PEACEKEEPING

Pt'chang asserts that we all have a basic right to feel safe at all times and that all of us share responsibility for creating safety in our lives and communities.

Pt'chang sees safety as pro-active - the creation of space where all people can express and experience their life to the fullest - that it is possible to create safety powerfully and nonviolently. It is not something that we should leave to somebody else or to 'the authorities' but something that all of us can do something about.

Nonviolent Community Safety describes approaches to safety that are community initiated and controlled. It is much more of an 'opening-up' and community building process than the common 'lock-up' and isolating 'power-over' responses to safety that tend to dominate in our society. The annual 'Reclaim The Night' marches and the many Lesbian and Gay anti-violence street patrols are examples of nonviolent community safety initiatives.

How?

Pt'chang uses co-operative and power-with processes to help create safety in ways that empower and bring people together.

We are committed to active nonviolence, responding to all situations and parties with an open mind and respecting the value and shared humanity of every person.

Pt'chang is an open and inclusive group. We attempt to liaise and build relationships with all groups and maintain a neutral stance in relation to conflicts or differences between groups and individuals. This neutrality reflects our role as mediators in some situations. We seek to remain accountable and responsible to the all parts of the wider community.

Our training is diverse and practical. We learn active listening skills, creative and nonviolent ways of intervening in violence, conflict resolution skills and practice diverse, and effective ways of creating safety and reducing violence in different situations (and we are learning all the time!).

What is Peacekeeping?

Peacekeeping is a powerful way of creating safety, intervening in and resolving conflict, interrupting actual violence and controlling our own space. It uses strategies and methods that are safe, effective, creative, empowering, non-heroic, and that do not escalate the overall level of violence or victimisation. It can be used by individuals in many contexts but also used by trained and co-ordinated groups of people in situations that are particularly unsafe or when conflict, violence or repression is anticipated.

In short, Peacekeeping is not about curtailing, suppressing, or coercing people or their behaviour (which tends to only contain violence - if not actually escalate it!) Peacekeeping is about creating space, often on a small scale, in which people can express themselves to the fullest. A very common example of this is the Peacekeeping practice of Active Listening that aims to allow an aggressive, angry or upset person to calm down by meeting their immediate need to simply be heard. Active Listening also allows us to identify other needs that person may have that we can then, hopefully, help to meet.

Nonviolent Peacekeeping is a way of creating safety at Actions, Protests and political events that is often the most consistent with the aims of the social change group or of the movement as a whole. Actions which challenge prevailing conditions or injustices can seek to create safety and resolve conflict in ways that are just, peaceful, culturally appropriate and nonviolent by developing Peacekeeping strategies. Trained groups of Peacekeepers form very viable and effective, community-initiated alternative to allowing police or private security to control our 'space' for us.



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