Embodying the Great Turning

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The most remarkable feature of this historical moment on Earth is not that we are on the way to destroying the world — we've actually been on the way for quite a while. It is that we are beginning to wake up, as from a millennia-long sleep, to a whole new relationship to our world, to ourselves and each other.
Macy explains the power of confronting uncertainty: ‘insisting on belief in a positive outcome puts blinders on us and burdens the heart. We might manage to convince ourselves that everything will surely turn out all right, but would such happy assurances elicit our greatest courage and creativity?’ (2006:2).
The Truth Mandala

The Work that Reconnects

Stories of the Great Turning

edited by
Peter Reason & Melanie Newman
with a foreword by Joanna Macy
The Transition Network
As of May 2013, there are:
1107 initiatives registered
In 43 countries
88 in Australia
The 4 Recognitions of the Transition Movement

1. Life with less energy is inevitable and it is better to plan for it than be taken by surprise.
2. We have lost the resilience to be able to cope with energy shocks.
3. We have to act for ourselves and we have to act now.
4. By unleashing the collective genius of the community we can design ways of living that are more enriching, satisfying and connected than the present.

“Inherent within the challenges of peak oil, climate change and economic crises is an extraordinary opportunity to reinvent, rethink and rebuild the world around us.”
Cheerful disclaimer!

• Just in case you were under the impression that Transition is a process defined by people who have all the answers, you need to be aware of a key fact.

• **We truly don't know if this will work. Transition is a social experiment on a massive scale.**

• What we are convinced of is this: if we wait for the governments, it'll be too little, too late, if we act as individuals, it'll be too little, but if we act as communities, it might just be enough, just in time.
Features of Transition

- Positive visioning,
- Help people access good information and trust them to make good decisions, inclusion and openness,
- Enable sharing and networking, build resilience,
- **Inner and outer transition,**
- Self organisation and decision-making at the appropriate level
- ‘Let it go where it wants to’
- Working with other groups/organisations/sectors in the community
- Resilience through relocalisation
- Re-skilling
- Honouring the elders – oral histories
- Transition streets

Working groups such as:
- energy
- food,
- transport
- health,
- local economy,
- housing
- waste
- education