Local Governments & Community — A New Story
Our current story is broken
Search for Meaning
The loss of soul and sense of place
Climate change, food security & economic uncertainty
Information overload – app distractions – status anxiety – more info with less substance
Technology for human benefit - toward ‘off the grid’, electric cars, the power of personalised apps, digital nomadism
Economics of digital disruption

IT, robotics & tech is the world's quickest growing industry... we are in between stories
So, the story is unravelling and it’s time for a new story...
Listening to our nobler impulses

A ‘good life’ is not lived in isolation or in the pursuit of independent goals; a good life is lived at the heart of a thriving community, among people we trust, and within an environment of mutual respect.

– Hugh Mackay

Elegant simplicity
Trends affecting place
Pop-up culture
Bringing meaning and magic back into our lives
Towards a more just and accessible world

Affordable housing  Public markets  Home grown
Local gov. catalysing eco co-housing projects
- Fremantle
Socially responsible super funds
Conscious consumption and new rituals
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Sustainable consumption

Night time economy
Return of the commons

Dimensions of the commons
– Michel Bauwens

**Material**

Inherited
- Planetary life support systems (oceans, atmosphere, forests); Biology, (DNA, genetics)

Produced
- Social commons (shared goods like infrastructure, libraries and public safety)

**Immaterial**

Inherited
- Language, education, culture, spiritual teachings

Produced
- Digital / p2p commons (open source designs)
Crowdfunding main streets

– Minneapolis
Streets as places – public asset as an anchor
Representative democracy no longer serves the common good – shift toward participatory democracy
Barcelona – citizen led ownership and urban commoning
Beauty as an economic driver

Hosier Lane

New Acton Canberra
New Working Environments
Co-working & start-ups – maker spaces, 21st century schools
The New Business of Business
Local, experiential & ethically responsible
The well-being century
Equity - Inclusion - Dignity - Access
The rise of ‘third places’
Great cafés, bars & hang out spaces - places to socially connect
Ritual and celebration as a tool for reclaiming the commons
The new story is a place-based one.

It's about reconnecting with what's important in life.
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead