

Renaissance

Workshops

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Dreamspace Ltd

61 CARNARVON ST, GISBORNE, NEW ZEALAND

PRESENTS

A PROSPECTUS

FOR THE 2020 STARTUP OF

Renaissance Workshops

A MAD POETIC SCIENTIFIC CREATIVE SUBVERSIVE

FOLK FACTORY AND SCHOOL OF REIMAGININGS

Convened by Peter Harris, MA (philosophy), founder of Café Eutopia, artist, inventor, entrepreneur;
currently founder of Dreamspace Workshops and Gallery.

The School

will be a loosely ordered outpouring of co-creativity and explorations of the human potential; a fellowship of idealists; a series of no-holds-barred symposia; explorations in writing and filming and music and poetry and psychology and philosophy.

We have an exhibition hall with a '4phase' round table for the process of conscious co-creation, discussion and brainstorming, exhibitions, parties and celebrations.

There are workshop facilities for any desired mixture of sculpture, casting, metalwork, blacksmithing, painting, printmaking, bookbinding, tiny house/'hobbit haven' building, and much more, all under one roof and with unlimited openmindedness to entrepreneurial applications of what the participants discover and co-create. (All 'students' will be active participants, learning by making and working in the current projects and product range. They will be by virtue of this work 'flowshareholders' in the growing turnover of the School and Folk Factory – see below.)

Renaissance Workshops is an enterprise to generate a synergy of noble pursuits - philosophy, positive psychology, the arts and sciences, and architecture. We offer a crash course in the Possible Human, the *Übermensch*, the unstoppable healthy human, driven by Peter Harris's passion to equip a few gifted young 'misfits' with power tools and weaponry of the mind and spirit to go forth and reimagine their lives and futures, and understand their pasts... hopefully even to understand the civilization of the West - the good, the bad and the ugly. I want to give them hope that they need not be alone or unappreciated in their anxious odyssey into the stormy seas of the 21st Century. That they and others like them CAN change the course of the most dynamic and progressive civilization we know of, and help save it from its current decline into nihilism, narcissism, relativism, anti-intellectualism, social media tribalism, self-doubt and despair. That they can be part of a new Renaissance in the Free World, back toward the ideals of what I call the 'True West'.

The Folk Factory

is the local co-creation, ethical production and innovative marketing of useful and beautiful artefacts, inventions and systems, honouring our 3-D reality in a renaissance of the Arts and Crafts movement of last century, combined with many of the ideals of the 'High Renaissance', updated with all the knowledge available on the Web, but countering the web tendency towards the 'virtualisation of everything' and the tyranny of the narcissistic 2-D screen world, what I call the 'Hedonomatrix' or 'Metrix'.

Financial structure (proposed, to be ironed out in detail)

We will use Peter's innovation of the highly transparent and intrinsically accountable FLOWSHARE process-based enterprise structure. This allows multiple shareholders to hold a stake (after shareholder voting on their overall benefits to the company – all flowshare shareholders are more than just financial contributors; they are people with wisdom and experience and ideas to contribute to the flowshare pool of talent) simply by 'flowing' a chosen level of funds or labour into the company. It's like a leasehold in that they can withdraw their inflow at any time and relinquish their ownership share if they stop liking the company. As long as their inflow continues they receive a share of any profits, which they can either withdraw or use to increase their flowshare. The earlier they invest their inflow, the larger a share of the company they receive - and keep, as the company grows in investment inflows and profit outflows.

The company will be collaborative, democratic and accountable, having an online forum for the exchange of information, advice, ideas, strategies, questions and criticism, open to all shareholders, where all questions are answered by the directors to the satisfaction of all – otherwise the shareholders can vote with their feet and give notice of intention to reduce or withdraw their inflow unless changes

are made. There will also be a vision statement, company org chart, business plan etc, online and updated for scrutiny by shareholders.

It will be transparent with built-in audit trail in a similar way to cryptocurrency, but more low tech and I think more accessible: all shareholders get access to the full *Xero* (or similar web accounting service) online accounting reports at all times, so they can see everything – expenses, capital purchases, directors' fees, drawings, monthly profit and loss, etc.

Flowshares can be traded – obviously the earliest flowshares are the most valuable, i.e. have the highest profitflow to inflow ratio. To buy a flowshare, however, the buyer must have shown on the online forum their informal value to the thriving of the company. So rapid sharetrading (mere speculation) based purely on capital flows is restrained, and whole-person involvement (investment) is encouraged – and in the long run richly rewarded as the company grows in solid value through being of solid value to the world.

Applications: online to Peter Harris. I am looking for probably up to five foundational 'students'/co-creators, one for each 'phase' or zone in the Process Tree, and one to hold the balance, the status quo. (with me of course – but I am often away with the Green phase, inventing new developments. Hence the need for a natural 'manager' or 'camp mother' type. We will need a Blue – an input gatherer; a Green – an idea generator; a Yellow – an analyser-planner; and a Red – an action person, evangelist, seller, manifester.

The detailed Prospectus will be drawn up as we consult further. This is a Green phase prospectus – to get the ball rolling, fast!

Fees and costs

No fees for the school (!) but all will contribute their talents and labours for the duration of the courses. They will also receive flowshare shares in the Company after an initial trial period. If Renaissance Workshops does well, they will do well. If not, it will at least do us all good - and hopefully the world too!

Some imagined FAQ:

Who is this Peter Harris?

I am 65 years old so my history tells something of who I am – though there is much still in tendency and gestation. Such as the School.

A potted version by possibly the most reliable biographer (me!) -

Growing up a shy adventurous romantic timid bookish boy in Auckland, Papua New Guinea and Northland, I read C S Lewis and Tolkien, became a Christian, studied Greek and Hebrew in Dunedin, where I became agnostic, met Raewyn in Greek 1, started Memory Frames to support a growing family while angsty about the meaning of Life, the Universe and Everything; read Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance' which saved Memory Frames; finally went back to university at 35 to study philosophy in Auckland. Sold Memory Frames, bought an old bungalow. Escaped Auckland, started building the ferrocement fantasy Café Eutopia. Wrote a four volume Eutopian fantasy *The Apples of Aeden* and other books. Sold up our lifestyle block and café, came to Gisborne for the grandsons.

I've been married most of that time to the long-suffering Raewyn who is an early childhood teacher, perennial student, grandmother and gardener. We have four (mostly) grownup children, two boys and two girls, and four grandsons - the eldest one (6) being the instigation of this School, being himself a highly gifted individual who is definitely going to need something like Renaissance Workshops one day...

Can I apply to be part of this wonderful enterprise/school/thing?

Yes, Anyone can apply – man, woman, indeterminate, alien. If you are crazy or desperate enough to apply, you probably belong here! But there will be a natural winnowing. Mostly by our ruthless honesty about our aims, philosophy and methods. Expected demographic: young just out of school, or contemplating seventh form or whatever they call it nowadays... or university, or art school, or dropping out, or uploading to the web, or becoming a revolutionary of the Left or Right... or going off grid, being a hermit, starting a commune, an ecovillage - or a school of reimaginings like this!

Do you have government funding or accreditation?

No. This is a quick-start, independent, experimental, free enterprise school, not the kind of thing governments or councils are set up to cater to. If you know any exceptions to this which we could avail ourselves of, without compromise to the vision, we would love to hear about it.

Have you really got a philosophy degree?

Yes, from Auckland. They hated my thesis though! It was titled 'Process and Inquiry'. It didn't really fit the current dominant tradition in Western philosophy, which is (or was when I graduated in 1995) stiff, leftbrained piecemeal analytic stuff, with a bad case of physics envy, and running scared of any kind of transcendentalism. Previous degrees: BA in Classical Greek and Hebrew and post graduate diploma in Hebrew. School record: Whangarei Boy's High, first in 6A, dropped out, went to Ilam Art school for 6 weeks, dropped out to find God and study Descartes in the bush. More tortuous turnings I make no secret of led finally to a return to academia in 1990 to face the knot of questions about 'Life, the Universe, and Everything' by doing a philosophy degree and haunting the university library for extracurricular wisdoms – which is where I discovered C. S. Peirce, polymath rebel thinker, a pioneer and/or founder of Pragmatism, Semiotics, formal logic and the much less known Tritism, which became a pillar of my thesis on process and the growth of systems of thought.

Some call you the wizard of Eutopia – and your email is wizardofeutopia@gmail.com. So, are you a worker of magic? Possibly black magic?

No, I'm not that kind of wizard! – if I was it would be white magic. More like a wizard of the mind, a visionary, a would-be protector of a civilisation, like Gandalf. And wishing to see the wizardry of all minds fully unleashed as in a new and even greater Renaissance.

But are you a mystic, a believer in the Absolute, the transcendental, the metaphysical?

Yes absolutely a mystic, of a Platonistic philosophical persuasion. A strong defender of the rational point of view, like Plato, and Aristotle too. And Popper with his vision of Science as a series of guesses and tests, as in his book 'Conjectures and refutations'.

You write fantasy and paint – are you some kind of romantic?

Yes a romantic of the mind and spirit, a (not uncritical) lover of Nietzsche and his *Thus Spake Zarathustra* – an extended rave on the possible human – the *Übermensch* ('Overman') as he called him (and *her*, of course!).

This is some kind of mad - are you certifiable?

Certainly not! I have never been admitted, certified or prescribed psychotropic or psychiatric drugs, nor have I self administered any, apart from organic coffee beans... I'm not even bipolar! A bit visionary-maniac, on the spectrum I suppose! But never really depressive. Discouraged, disappointed, yes, plenty of times. But 'whatever doesn't kill us makes us stronger'.

Are you legal? Have you got a permit for all this?

Well I have no police record, and not by good luck. Barely a parking ticket after 45 odd years of driving. But there are many things 'normal' folk assume need the Big Brother's permission to do, and (thank God and our vigilant brave ancestors, we don't).

So you were religious. You probably still are...

Yes I was a Christian, still respect much of it (not the 'religious', churchy version of it). Also Paganism, ancient wisdoms, and Neoplatonism like Kurt Godel's. So I am not a relativist or a materialist/physicalist. In fact, as someone who acknowledges the reality of the transcendental order as well as the material, I am inclined to call that infinite Reality God. The term is loaded, however – see my recently set up www.meretheism.wordpress.com for more on this – and my short ebook, *The God Proof*. The acceptance of the reality of a transcendental order is the underpinning for any true civilization, and the hope of better ones to come.

You care so much – you must be a progressive liberal leftist, right?

No, sorry that stuff leads to totalitarianism. So I am not a socialist, communist, revolutionary, neo-liberal or globalist, or fascist. I am pretty passionately against all these things to varying degrees, though there is good to be found in almost any belief system – just surrounded by misleading assumptions.

This can't be just your idea - it has to be coming from some organisation – you must have a hidden agenda, an axe to grind... a guru, a paymaster, a leader in California... something...

No, I am not a member of any sect, religion or political group. If I were to join anything, it would be something that comes out of this summer school! I am at this point of writing, a card-carrying non-card-carrier...

But you must have a sponsor, a rich backer...

No, we aren't currently in that enviable but often invidious position. But we have a building and a lot of setup, and I have a few decades of experience in running on empty, constructing 12 impossible things before breakfast, and generally making do in the service of crazy ideals. And I want this school and workshops to be a powerhouse of entrepreneurial get up and go, from the start!

Our main foundational asset, right now before YOU come on board? Peter Harris's mind. That he never ever grew up, just branched out. A sterling (And yes sometimes tragicomic) example of the amazing human potential for neoteny (staying young and playful and openminded).

So really, HOW are we going to fund this?

Well, that's a 'But How' question, well down the list for an entrepreneur (see Simon Sinek's Five Questions – WHY WHO WHERE WHEN and HOW), but fair enough, ok.

First, we will be filming this – a young fanatic of film may be on board for that role – though he will need helpers! And investors for some good equipment! And making a documentary with the sponsorship of Peter's brother John founder of Greenstone Pictures (now sold). So even if it fails it will fail entertainingly, and profitably as a fascinating documentary.

Second, we are starting a crowdfunding program.

Third, we are putting the word out through every network of social media we can think of, and it's growing. All who care about the values of creative civilization are invited to contribute financially or in any other way they can.

Fourth: we have the facility at least for the summer (the rent is considerable but Peter is covering that, by hook or by crook!)

Fifth – if the participants have parents or sponsors of means, they will be contributing generously, naturally!

What do you see as the benefits of sending or sponsoring a young person to go to this summer school?

Multitudinous. The opening up of possibilities they almost lost hope of hanging on to as they approached the fateful time of 'graduation' where they would have to find their way, find a job, a career, a course of serious study at a university or other scary partly or wholly status quo institution.

Is there accommodation?

Not yet apart from billeting which we will try to get plenty of. Volunteers anyone? Later there may be land where we can practise some off-grid living and pioneering... And building hobbit havens.

Inquiries, protests and offers of assistance to Peter Harris, wizardofeutopia@gmail.com. Ph 022 332 6568 Website – main one www.dreamspace.nz If in Gisborne call and see me!

I will personally answer all queries, offers, and criticisms promptly and gratefully, to my complete satisfaction and hopefully to yours.

Looking forward to it!

Peter Harris

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