

Platform Cooperativism: Supporting platforms for the building of the new economy”.

Peter Tregilgas, Gary Cronan

The paper would aim to build on the momentum of the recently completed series of events on this topic in Sydney and Melbourne – Creatives Get Mutual as part of the Vivid Festival in Sydney and Platform Cooperativism in Melbourne, with the keynote speakers being key ‘new economy’ activists from the United States, Janelle Orsi and Nathan Schneider. The paper would be focussed on the strategic development of “Platform Cooperativism” as part of a ‘new economy’ in Australia

The material and outcomes of the recent well attended events on this topic can be seen now at: <http://www.getmutual.coop/news/how-co-ops-can-transform-the-sharing-economy/>. (Note especially Janelle Orsi’s recorded presentation to the Creatives Get Mutual seminar on the topic).

Platform Cooperativism of course is becoming a major component of ‘new economy’ initiatives as it can drive strategic approaches to all that is involved in the Conference’s theme – “reimagining work, exchange, money, care, law and our relationship with the natural world through the prism of a new economy”, with all being regarded as key features of platform cooperatives (given the diverse nature of the “missions’ of those cooperatives involved, though all feature similar objectives and structural/legal elements related to the future of work, social care and people/environment centred transactions and relationships.

Conference Themes: work, exchange, money, law

Bio:

Peter Tregilgas, Chair, The Mercury Centre Cooperative Ltd and Principal, Social Enterprise Services Australia .

Peter Tregilgas is a Master of Business (Arts & Cultural Management) and has skills and experience in creative and social innovation, encompassing regional development, arts management, festival coordination, capital projects and social enterprise.

Peter’s specialist focus is Cooperatives and Social Enterprises and has produced the definitive publications “Social Enterprise in Australia” and “Cooperatives in Australia.

Peter is the founder of Social Enterprise Services Australia encouraging sustainable market based trading with a social outcome and an operating philosophy of Mainstream, Make Money and Make a difference.

In 2015, Peter was invited to Chair the Mercury Centre Cooperative, which brings together a network of specialist associates to build collaborative enterprises through evidence based research, strategic advice, communication and organisational structure.

Peter was the Curator for the events “Creatives Get Mutual” and “Platform Cooperativism”.

Garry Cronan, Director, Mercury Centre Co-operative

Garry is one of the nation’s leading co-operators with over 35 years experience in Australia and internationally.

His wide ranging career has included working for the country’s largest membership based co-operative business, running co-operative development and policy programs for the NSW government, establishing and jointly managing Australia’s first university based co-operative (social economy) research centre and running communications, policy and business intelligence programs for the International Co-operative Alliance based in Geneva.

Garry is currently a director of the Mercury Centre in Sydney, where he provides advice on co-operative policy and business development opportunities.

He is also continuing his academic research into the drivers of co-operative and mutual global business success.