

**Back to the Future: Discovering Tomorrow's Technology**

**Key themes / issues / questions arising from discussion:**

Workshop process to explore life in 2050 around the following issues:

**2050**

Electricity Generation

- What it will be generated from
- Decline in Oil and gas need other energy option.
- Solar and wind power, energy will need to be more de-centralised eg run by communities.
- Electricity rich life's we lead will need to change
- Lives will be a lot more localised, no alternative fuel for planes etc. (back to the sea)
- Microchips may be used as an energy source (eg. mobile phones transferred to other things)
- Re structuring of Government, overtired, to costly.
- Cars will be used less (obsolete)

News

- All news stored centrally, everyone has access to the news.
- How would people keep informed on all the news? People delegated to collect news based on topics. Informed when news is relevant and interesting.
- One option was for a computer to do this job, however then control is lost.
- Possible microchips in the brain to observe and control computers.

Homes

- Central Database: type EOI for housing into a central database with all information and computer will keep tabs on how many people can live in what area. Information will come back via computer about areas available.
- Housing will become very self-sufficient; house will have a central computer to store information.
- Size of housing will need to be smaller as more people are living on their own also the structure of the house will be more efficient and spare space could be leased out to other people.
- Community centres to bring people together.
- Will cars become obsolete? Possibly still have hybrid cars or public transport. People may be able to work mostly from home so walking may be the main form of transport.
- No Kitchens as people would rather go out also talk of communal bathrooms.
- Or there may be a trend to stay in the homes eg home office, shop over the internet etc.

## Education

- Ubiquitous education
- Much more organic and community based education. Less structured more Montessori like.
- Information available to everyone and much more equal education opportunities.
- The current world (environment etc) will be much on the agenda as people especially children want to know about the world they are living in.
- Role of technology in assisting learning will be much more likely to apply both to adults and children.
- Education and development from childhood to adulthood will be much more valued and it will be a lifelong education.

## Other Comments

- Do we lose control? How much control do we have and how much to we give to machines? How do we interact with other? Will be questions that are still around, we haven't
- News and publishing media will no longer exist as people have access to all information.

## 2006

### **Personal reflections on the process.**

- Quite scary because of the influence of technology, everyone connected, no individual thought.
- Different scenarios, spectrum of possibility, one full of technology, other not so much.
- Standard approach is technology will save us, being technology optimistic.
- Core issues about community, how we interact etc have not changed much.
- Didn't go into all of the environmental problems eg the ozone layer, there was still hope.
- Fear, real situations are easier to deal with than projecting forward and fear of the future.
- Out of comfort zone, interesting and diverse information gathered.
- When problems are trying to be solved there is always the common values of community.

### **Person / People to contact (include email / phone) for further information about this issue / session:**

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