

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** William Plain [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Saturday, 30 November 2013 8:40 AM  
**To:** CCA - Submissions  
**Subject:**  $5^{\circ} + 5^{\circ} = 10^{\circ}$  GW and 20-30 years to human Permian (revised version with URL's visible)

Emeritus Prof William Plain  
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]  
URL: [www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org)

[First submitted through GetUp, but URL's disappeared from text.]

Dear Climate Councillor,

I wish to make a contribution to the global warming consciousness-raising process: making available a structured form of information exchange facilitating creativity which can help people to wake up, become involved and take appropriate action.

What I offer is well researched and proven to be effective, responding to a fundamental problem with human thinking, a gap in human evolution, but deliberately designed to be as minimalist as possible. Please take a little time to see what 'Creative Discussion using Plain Pair Groups' can offer and, better, spend a while with a couple of friends or colleagues simply following a defined pattern of communication to get a feel for its potential and test its efficacy.

As a way to encourage people to discuss climate change in some detail and discover ways each individual can respond, see Creative Discussion on GetUp!: ([www.communityrun.org/p/creativediscussion](http://www.communityrun.org/p/creativediscussion)).

To explore Creative Discussion in depth go to the main website: ([www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org)).

-----

We are facing an unprecedented crisis, still largely ignored, that threatens our survival and that of the planet. The Climate Change Authority is undertaking the critical task of bringing this crisis to public awareness.

I also wish to make a contribution - not an answer, but a way answers can be found; not limited to the powerful and the decision-makers, but accessible to each of us Terrians.

The threat is so big we can't see it, and when we do look, we don't want to see; meanwhile, powerful interests keep telling us there is nothing to see. As our First Peoples say, we are all responsible. In a way we are all terracidists (Tom Englehardt uses the term 'terrorist': ([www.tomdispatch.com/post/175703/](http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175703/)), though certain corporate interests and established systems have the most impactful terracid effect.

Some are struggling to explain how big the problem is (e.g. [www.zcommunications.org/bigger-than-that-by-rebecca-solnit.html](http://www.zcommunications.org/bigger-than-that-by-rebecca-solnit.html)); a few climate scientists are now clearly stating the unthinkable (<http://arctic-news.blogspot.au/>) an excellent website for latest observations on Arctic methane release, also explore right hand menu e.g.: "Global Extinction within one Human Lifetime" and "Message from the Arctic Methane Emergency Group" esp. 7; a video just released (28th September, 2013) unequivocally shows our present trajectory (<http://lasthours.org/>) - video viewable only with certain browsers e.g. Google Chrome.

I wish to briefly outline my understanding of the most severe outcomes presently being discussed, not to further close us in an avoidance reaction but to underline the urgency in stimulating a creative response, while at the same time offering a specific means by which that creativity can be activated in each individual and result in effective action.

-----

Irreversible abrupt climate change involves 1, 2, 3 ... and even 4 separate but cumulative threats which are inherent in the present anthropocene extinction event.

1. Aggressive human over-occupation of the planet has resulted in the 6th major extinction of life forms on the planet, already several decades and perhaps much longer in the making.
2. The choice of fossil fuels as the energy to run the human world, initially the result of fortuitous inventions, but maintained against more efficient forms of energy largely by corporate interest, has resulted in an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> that risks making the anthropocene one of the great extinctions.
3. Add to these two forms of climate forcing the increasingly massive release of methane on the East Siberian Arctic Shelf, first noticed in 2010 but largely ignored in the IPCC AR5, and we are facing an extinction event which will possibly be greater than the Permian, with its 90% species extinction. While life has so far always recovered - after millions of years - some are now indicating a true terracide, or 'Martian terraforming' (the correct word has not yet been invented), after 3 billion years of planetary homeostasis: the extinction of a conscious living planet.
4. Even if this process is limited to a 'simple' human civilisation extinction event - mythical history tells us this would not be the first - any breakdown of the present technological and economic systems, even limited to one small country, could mean the collapse of a national nuclear power industry and a hemispheric downwind chain reaction, making impossible the re-emergence of a human civilisation. Reason not only for avoiding nuclear as an 'alternative' energy source, but for immediate global decommissioning and deactivation of all nuclear waste products (along with cessation of uranium mining) - before it's too late.

-----

Why is the supposedly 'wise wise man' the first species in the history of the planet to set about destroying its source of life? In very simple terms, it seems this is because we see the world through the eyes of human conditioning - 'I think what we all think'. While all species have evolved an automatic means to correct physical error, or a capacity for 'physical proprioception', the recent evolutionary development of a 'thinking brain' and a sense of 'self' has left us so far without the capacity for 'mental proprioception', i.e. automatic correction of error in judgement. (Note this term is used in number of quite different ways). For more detail see: ([www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org)) > Contents > "The Awakeness Paradigm".

Mental proprioception is possible, but is not automatic. It requires the individual to step outside of human conditioning, which means the whole pattern of memory and interpretation which define our understanding of the inner and outer world. This is not impossible, but in fact is experienced by each individual in moments of silent attentiveness when a 'flash of insight' provides a direct perception, unmediated by conditioning. This 'seeing in a different way' reorganises cognitive and even cerebral patterns. It provides an understanding that is valid to the individual, here and now.

The human species is responsible for an ongoing mass extinction that may become a planetary extinction. A total and immediate - here and now! - restructuring of the human occupation of the planet is most urgently required. Organisations are fundamentally incapable of responding. Only the individual, 'you and me', which ultimately means "I", can respond by initiating immediate change. This requires a highly creative response. The key to creativity is insight. Insight is accessible to the individual, each and every individual irrespective of education or age. The interaction of multiple individuals focusing on and giving value to insight can then bring about fundamental change in organisations.

The fundamental orientation of my research over 20 years in leading Japanese universities has been to provide a simple yet effective means by which 'flash of insight' and thus creativity can be facilitated in the individual and shared by individuals across a community.

It has been found that creativity is best exercised in a small, preferably heterogeneous group, where each participant prepares and presents new and interesting ideas aimed at stimulating creativity, with equal time for each presenter, and where each person listens silently, in thought and in word, attentive both to the speaker and to one's own 'flash of insight'. During presentations, good ideas and insights are collected and then discussed when all speakers have concluded.

Between regular meetings of this 'Insight Group', each person participates in a separate 'other group', the 'Plain Pair Group', from which they bring back insights collected, both from presentations and from ideas each member has in turn collected in their own 'other group'. Thus insights are gathered, directly or indirectly, from a number of other groups, intensifying one's own experience of creativity, while 'my' ideas can reverberate out from Insight Group to an array of Plain Pair Groups across a discussion community.

From direct experimental evidence, as well as from reported experience, insight moves in an evolutionarily positive direction, it is dynamic and pertains to the 'here and now', the ever-changing, ever-present experience of "I", not 'self' which is limiting, but "I" as the experiential centre of a planetary field of wisdom - I use the term 'Earthsight'. Insight, however, is dynamic, ever-changing. If an insight is held up as an 'answer', given a fixed identity, it would again enter the realm of memory, structure and conditioning, just as other forms of knowledge. Insight therefore cannot be hierarchical, it cannot be taught or based on authority. Insight is lived, by each individual, actively participating in the moment to moment dynamic of the unfolding planetary experience.

-----

While Creative Discussion was initially developed in the field of student-centred learning, other areas of successful application have shown it can be effectively applied to a consciousness-raising process across an open community, facilitating interaction with and expanding the response to specific campaigns such as those presented by GetUp! in Australia and Avaaz internationally. It can also provide a simple interactional format without imposing any values or pre-determined ideas - or even topics for discussion - for use across the larger community, where any individual can sit down with people having similar or even widely differing attitudes and values, each gaining from a non-confrontational 'attentive listening for one's own insights'.

Creative Discussion is not for convincing others, for selling one's own ideas, nor even for agreeing or disagreeing with those of others. Creative Discussion is for stimulating insight, and each person's insights will be valuable for that person at that moment - they may be different tomorrow, and will probably change over time ... will need to change, and rapidly, perhaps even contributing to the profound transformation required in our species at this moment.

The question is, how can our species attain a sudden awakening, not within structured hierarchical organisations or as a form of global mental synthesis, either of which would represent an imposition, but through the awakening of each person, each "I", as an individual, by oneself and in interaction with, sharing with other individuals.

An open network of Creative Discussion groups, where each person belongs to two groups, spread across any form of community, would nevertheless remain experientially centred on the individual, "I". The group I am in now is the 'Insight Group', the other group or groups I meet at another moment in time being the 'Plain Pair Group'. Where I am now is always the centre of insight, change and action. My own insights can ripple out across the community, while I am open to insights flowing in towards me through a diverse range of other groups.

There are therefore no channels through which instructions or knowledge or values can be imposed on the individual. Likewise within the group, the influence of dominant personalities is counterbalanced by each person belonging to a separate group, where the dynamics will be quite different. There is also no threat to organisations or nations within which this process takes place. Each member is freely contributing their creative best to the welfare of the organisation/nation etc while at the same time being attentive to the externalities resulting from its activities, attentive that is to all stake-holders, internal and external, people and planet.

-----

As a step towards promoting Creative Discussion for community consciousness-raising, and also specifically toward increased awareness of global warming, I have posted a second campaign on GetUp! ([www.communityrun.org/p/GetUpTeam](http://www.communityrun.org/p/GetUpTeam)) and Avaaz ([www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Avaaz\\_team\\_If\\_I\\_change\\_the\\_world\\_changes](http://www.avaaz.org/en/petition/Avaaz_team_If_I_change_the_world_changes)) targeted specifically at the management team and board members of each organisation, suggesting that the generic 'Creative Discussion' campaign ([www.communityrun.org/p/creativediscussion](http://www.communityrun.org/p/creativediscussion)) and ([http://avaaz.org/en/petition/discuss\\_avaaz\\_support\\_your\\_community\\_your\\_country\\_your\\_planet](http://avaaz.org/en/petition/discuss_avaaz_support_your_community_your_country_your_planet)) be 'added' to appropriate campaigns as a means of potentiating and expanding uptake.

The role of the Climate Change Authority is of crucial importance in the present state of general denial of extreme urgency where even the IPCC AR5 effectively ignores the importance of increasing ESAS methane release between 2010 and 2013 and the possibility of a summer ice-free Arctic Ocean as early as 2015 (see <http://a-m-e-g.blogspot.com.au/> - Figure 3).

I wish you all the best in your role of promoting community awareness of the urgency of a multi-level response to what may already have become abrupt irreversible climate change.

If you consider that Creative Discussion using Plain Pair Groups may make a contribution to this process of awareness raising, please experiment, have a Creative Discussion lunch with colleagues or friends and make this known as widely as possible.

Addendum: In a dream last night (as I write this) I formulated a carefully worded question, "What is the butterfly that heals the ailing human mind?" On waking the first thing that came to mind was the butterfly in chaos theory. Is it possible that 'flash of insight' could exercise a 'butterfly effect'?

PS: 'ESAS 5+5' - I recently found an August 2013 article specifically endorsed by Prof Wadhams of Cambridge University (<http://arctic-news.blogspot.it/2013/08/historic-killer-methane-could-erupt-from-arctic.html>) which adds further detail to the 1, 2, 3 ... points above. During the Permian, CO<sub>2</sub> from volcanic eruptions in Siberia caused a 5° warming, which was sufficient to thaw frozen methane, in turn resulting in a further 5° warming and the Permian extinction. According to Shakhova, the ESAS has already warmed by 5°. It seems the massive ESAS methane release she has observed starting 2010, accentuated further by sustained methane release from the depths of the Arctic Ocean of October 2013 (<http://arctic-news.blogspot.au>) see e.g. November 11 and 14, can be interpreted as the beginning of a similar double warming process today. ... I thought scientists were generally reticent about making clear statements, but Arctic climate scientists are now reporting their observations with such clarity! ... but then they are presenting simple observations, not models or theories.

Regards,

William Plain  
Emeritus Professor  
[www.creativediscussion.org](http://www.creativediscussion.org)