

## The Living Earth is one awe inspiring home ...

... it is one of those things that we know to be true, but don't realise until we lose the capacity to do what we normally do, and then we have a light bulb moment and wake up to what has been there all along.

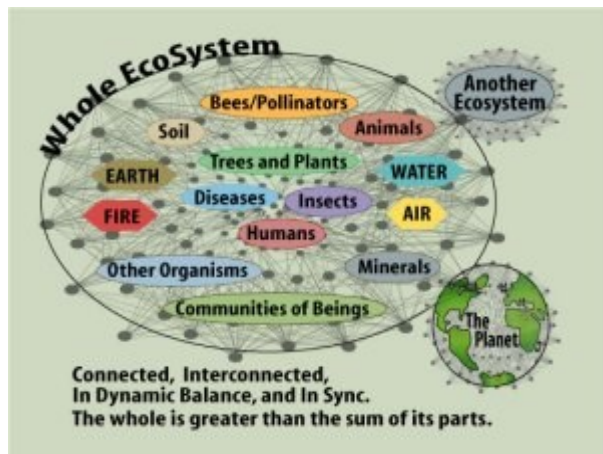
*And so it is that the whole living earth is greater than the sum of its parts.*

To achieve a goal it can be useful to break it down into its constituent parts or manageable chunks, from which we can then assemble the finished product/whole.

We need materials/ingredients, tools/technology, method/know-how, skills, energy/effort, motivation/willingness, vision/picture of the completed work (of art?) and purpose.

Combined, we have a story—the story of a cake or a meal or a car or a trip or house or a garden or a school or club or a business or a family or society or an earth—a story that we want to be a part of.

And this story is important when we are trying to explain why things are not going so well. because it helps to find the weak points, to identify where we need to put some effort, to strengthen the links in the



chain.

It is how we live—by telling stories, reading or watching other peoples stories.

For centuries we have lived by the truths contained within the stories. They are written on our faces, in our actions, by how we invest our time or spend our money.

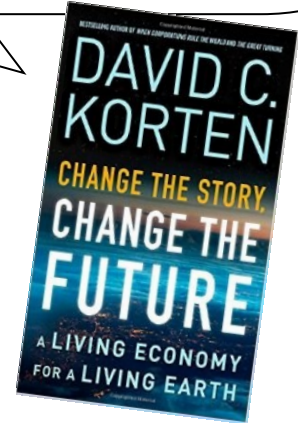
We are constantly exchanging our stories with those around us—on social media, across the dining table, at places of work and play and even to ourselves (as self talk).

Take this opportunity to write a story to yourself or someone you care deeply about, explaining what kind of world you would really like to live in. See how close you can get it to being what Thomas Berry calls: **The Dream of the Earth.**



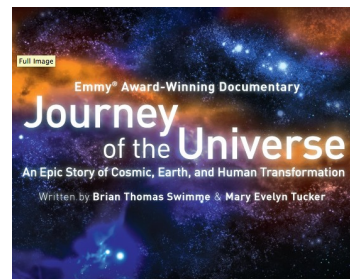
*Any suggestions for practical 'how to' guides?*

Sort of. There is no single all encompassing how to guide when it comes to living in harmony with the earth. This book goes some way to helping us get our heads around what is required. It is a case of many small steps that when combined contains an authentic version of living in-communion with the non-human members of the earth community.



*How can I start a conversation with family and friends who don't want to talk about the problems we face? They think it's silly talking about these things*

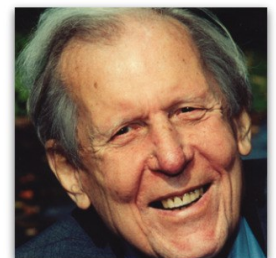
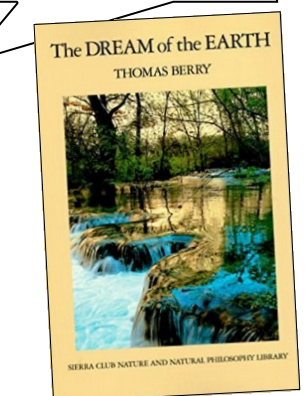
Perhaps mention that people like Thomas Berry think it's important to talk. Suggest watching some YouTube videos or this feature length film.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRykk\\_0ovI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRykk_0ovI0)

### Thomas Berry and the Earth Community

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0XBlUQ8qU>  
Caroline Webb spoken words of Thomas Berry 6'50"



*What choices do we have?*

Many more than we think. It takes a little time and effort but it is worth digging beneath the surface to find a wealth of knowledge waiting to be tapped. Turn over ... these people are not trapped by the existing paradigms. These people are often ignored but they are the sources of great insights and wisdom. They can help us compose the new story. [above image ... Thomas Berry]

Can we agree on a basic principle: that **human health** depends on the health of **the living earth**?

Can we agree:

- that we all live on one planet and that there is no Planet B?
- that the earth is finite and that therefore there is a finite amount of fresh water, clean air, fertile soil with carrying capacity limits?
- that planet earth is precious and cannot be priced?
- that we could liken her to our mother? —for in reality she is our earth mother—the source of life!
- that mother can only tolerate so much crap before she says no more and we suffer ill health as one of the consequences?
- that her store of goodies in the pantry is not limitless?

If so, what must we consider to help us make good decisions about how we can be responsible guests; to not abuse her generosity to care for and nurture us and our children?

To get a sense of direction ➡

### *Breathable air*

Replacement of fossil fuel generation with renewable energy: solar, wind, hydro, biogas ...  
*Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE)*

### *Fresh drinkable water*

Harvest water from within our sub-bioregion catchments and residential & commercial premises ...  
*Alternative Technology Association (ATA)*

### *Nourishing Food*

Grow and harvest food crops as close to the end-user as possible—on-site at the household if possible—otherwise in community or market gardens ...  
*Permaculture; Transition Towns*

When thoughts start floating through our minds about how we might achieve a more earth friendly society, acknowledge these thoughts as being sensible and any doubts or questions that arise as being healthy and deserving of respectful answers.

### *Living fertile soil*

Perpetual groundcover is vitally important to prevent erosion ...  
*Holistic Management; the Bruce Ward Holistic Results Foundation*

### *Efficient energy for households, commerce & industry*

Electricity from renewable energy: solar, wind, biogas, hydro ...  
*Alternative Technology Association (ATA); CSIRO Energy Centre, Newcastle*

### *Transport*

Driving into the future with electric cars, buses and trains ...  
*Electric Vehicle Association; Renew*

### *Clothing*

Fit for purpose and made from materials derived from annual crops such as Industrial Hemp; Upcycling of existing clothes to extend the useful life of fabrics ...

*Transition Newcastle; Local Op shops*

### *Mind and spirit*

It's normal to ask who am I; what's the purpose of my existence; our place in the greater scheme of things ...  
*Thomas Berry; Charles Eisenstein*

### *Building: residential and commercial*

Buildings designed to be energy efficient using northerly orientation with minimal active appliances ...  
*Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE); Envirotech (Dick Clarke)*

### *10+ Sources for information and research*

**Alternative Technology Assoc'n (ATA):** ReNew & Sanctuary 'zines  
**Beyond Zero Emissions:** Comprehensive Plans and 10-Star Housing  
**Transition Newcastle (TN):** Transition Streets workbook  
**Charles Eisenstein:** The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible  
**Paul Hawken:** The Ecology of Commerce  
**Toby Hemenway:** The Permaculture City, Regenerative Design  
**Christopher Lloyd:** What On Earth Wallbook Timeline of Big History  
**Michael Mobbs:** Sustainable House + Sustainable Garden  
**William McDonough & Michael Braungart:** Cradle to Cradle  
**Jeff Sparrow:** Crimes Against Nature  
**Brian Swimme:** The Universe Story  
**Haydn Washington:** Positive Steps to a Steady State Economy

### *Consumption & 'Waste'*

Reimagining our roles to be citizens rather than consumers. Accepting the reality that there is no 'waste' in nature and so there is no 'away'.  
*Ray Anderson—Interface—"all waste is lost profit."*

### *Economy*

Must serve the people and households and not the other way around.  
*Herman Daly, Steady State Economics; Ellen MacArthur: Circular Economy*