



SUMMING IT ALL UP

(JAN VISSER)

Candles shining diverse and flickering lights on a single brick



A subjective but hopefully not too biased overview by a reluctant invitee

and an invitation to complete the story of PST6, doing so interactively.



Everything can be said, but
not everything goes.

*Didn't he say exactly the opposite of what you
were saying the other day?*

Yes, he did.



Not merely what we know and think to understand, but how we behave and interact with the world is what matters.

- Driven by practical concerns, relevant to our daily lives and the sustainability of the ecologies of which we are part.
- Strong focus on ethics, without the habitual claim that only certain disciplines contribute to our ethical behavior.

Not just the speakers, but
just as much the audience.

- A conversation to which all contributed.
- And all took away from it as well.



Hugely diverse formats for learning collaboratively and deriving pleasure from interacting with each other.

- From serious to fun (both within and across events).
- From sound to nonsensical.
- From canonical to apocryphal, or even heretical and weird,

but always calling for the exploration of what Carl Sagan called the “exquisite balance between two conflicting needs: the most skeptical scrutiny of all hypotheses that are served up to us and at the same time a great openness to new ideas.”

Well embedded in its context of ecological conditions.

- The Clarence River and the Clarence Valley served well as powerful metaphors.
- We were all made inescapably aware of the fragility of the dominions in which we partake and of the need not to dominate such dominions, but to share in caring for them.



From the cathedral to the tent; and from the tent to the cathedral.

- Recognizing the delicate balance between hierarchical structures and the convenience for hierarchies to be continually scrutinized, challenged, and taken apart when needed.
- Caring for the physical body as much as for the beautiful mental faculties that emerge thanks to its fascinating complexity.
- Fostering a sense of community by sharing food and drinks, both as a sacrament and a secular practice.
- Allowing some of us to overcome the otherwise severe side effects of Alcohol Deficiency Syndrome.

Refutation of the proposition:
'If you believe it, it is true.'

- Of course, no one could believe such nonsense.
- Yet, some still believe, I'm being told.
- If it works for you, be happy. You can always still change.



From our now to our tomorrow

- As individuals, communities and species.
- Aware of our mortality, the opportunities given to us now, the contributions handed over to us by past generations, and our obligations to the future.
- Led to be ambitiously humble, cognizant of our shared presence with other life forms, whether or not endowed with consciousness, as well as with what we believe to be inanimate processes of continual change in our universe.
- Respectfully taking our next steps.