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Independent Political Party

'Ecosystems' are a Myth!

The following is a review of the May 2011 BBC documentary *All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace*. That film proves that the “science” behind the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Plan, and behind all environmentalism, is shameless quackery.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) assures the public that its Plan to shut down food production in the Basin and to decimate the Basin’s population—this at a time when the world is suffering an acute food shortage and at least a billion people are going hungry—is based on sound “environmental science”. Their so-called science takes the form of intricate and complex hydrological modeling and biodiversity surveys. But all of this “science”, with its mind-deadening “data sets”, is premised upon two, interrelated axioms: that there is “balance of nature” (“equilibrium”), and that nature is composed of “ecosystems” in just such equilibrium. There is just one problem: both axioms have been proven to be utterly absurd.

CEC national leader Craig Isherwood delivered two powerful speeches to the CEC’s 23-24 July, 2011 national conference, which are featured in the CEC’s October/November 2011 *New Citizen* newspaper. Both of those speeches contained proofs that the idea of “ecosystems” was nothing but a British imperial fraud concocted by one Sir Arthur Tansley (1871-1955). Tansley founded the British Ecological Society in 1913—the first such society in the

world—as a vehicle for British imperial rule, and is the acknowledged founder of the modern, Darwin-pivoted “science” of ecology. As Isherwood documented, Tansley was no “objective scientist”, but a product of Britain’s elite Trinity College Cambridge, a Fabian socialist and devout eugenicist, and a protégé of Bertrand Russell, the man whom U.S. statesman and physical economist Lyndon LaRouche has rightly called “the most evil man of the Twentieth Century.” Russell was a British aristocrat, a founder of the Fabian Society and outspoken advocate of eugenics, who repeatedly called for mass global population reduction in order to maintain the power of the British Empire. Tansley emphasised that Russell had had the single most profound impact on him of any human being. And this included the influence on him of Russell’s program to control science, which Russell outlined in his book *Principia Mathematica*: to reduce all of science to a series of formal, logical positivist axioms, divorced from the actual physical world.



Sir Arthur Tansley

So the CEC was surprised and delighted to recently discover that a featured 2011 documentary by Britain’s oh-so-august BBC has fully backed up essential points of Craig Isherwood’s charges against Tansley, including that the science of “ecosystems” which Tansley founded is just plain mechanistic garbage!

This is a total bombshell!

On 30 May 2011 Britain’s BBC2 aired the second part of a three-part documentary, whose overall title was *All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace*. The second part opened under the headlines, “This is a story about the rise of the machines and our belief in the balance of nature. How the idea of the ecosystem was invented. How it inspired us. *And how it wasn’t even true.*” (Emphasis added.) This whole second part is a devastating exposé of the concept of “ecosystems” as concocted by Arthur Tansley and the cyberneticists led by another Bertrand Russell protégé and Trinity College man, Norbert Wiener. It is not precisely the same as what the CEC has done, but it has crucial points of overlap: notably that the whole idea of “equilibrium”—which they demonstrate was Tansley’s main fetish—is just lunacy; in the actual real world outside of abstract computer models, there is no such thing, and

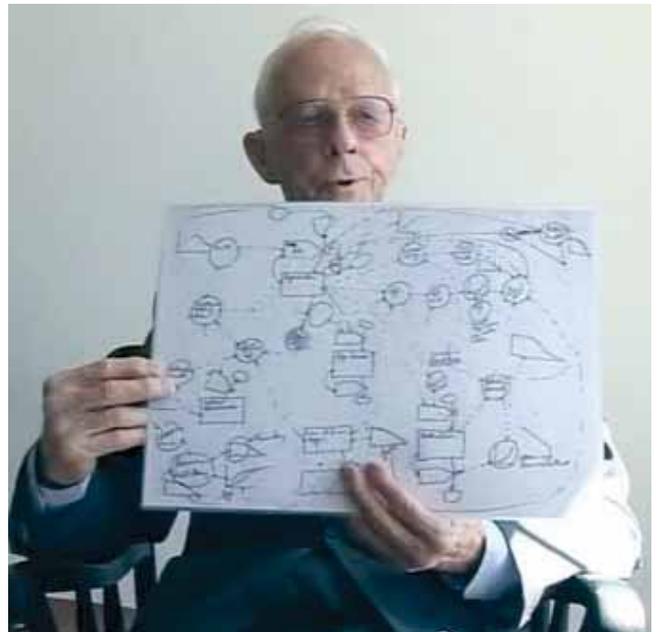
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that therefore “ecosystems” never did exist, and never could.

Tansley claimed that “equilibrium”, aka the “balance of nature”, meant that nature left to itself, i.e. outside of human activity, is *self-organising* and *stable*. But “equilibrium” is premised on the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics. The 2nd Law is adapted from the valid observation that non-living machinery “runs down” over time, that the energy of mechanical systems dissipates as entropy. As exposed in the *New Citizen*, the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics then extrapolates this principle valid for mechanical systems, to nature, to mankind, and to the universe as a whole, with no justification whatsoever. It argues that the entire universe, like any active system, will run down into “equilibrium”. However that “equilibrium” will be one of “heat death”, in which no motion whatsoever takes place—some equilibrium! Tansley insisted that the human mind, as well as nature itself, were such mechanical systems, all tending towards “equilibrium”. To environmentalists, the thousands of “wetlands” in the MDB are all individual ecosystems in equilibrium, the Murray-Darling Basin is an ecosystem in equilibrium, and the whole earth is an ecosystem in equilibrium, while evil “man” through his development of agriculture and industry wantonly disturbs their “equilibrium”. This, even though Tansley’s own self-contradictory logic specifies that because all these ecosystems are supposedly in “equilibrium”, they are all effectively dead or dying anyway, whatever man might do!

But now, for whatever their reasons might be, the BBC has weighed in to attack this genocidal nonsense.

After opening with the above titles on screen and spoken, they switched to the subtitle, “London at the height of the British Empire. Or so they thought.” The story starts right in with Tansley, who shortly after World War I had a dream about murdering his wife. He wanted to find out what it meant, so in 1922 he went to Vienna to consult with Sigmund Freud. As the film recounted, Tansley devised the notion of “ecosystems” based on “an obscure part of Freud’s theory that said that the human brain was actually an electrical machine. That the sense data that came in through the eyes and the ears created bursts of energy that flowed around networks inside the brain, just like electrical circuits. Tansley was fascinated by this ... he decided that he could take this model of the mind and apply it to the whole of the natural world.” Then there are some excellent quotes on Tansley and ecosystems, how he



Jay Forrester with his original schematic of a computer model of the whole world as one system.

invented the whole model. They interview ecological historian Peder Anker, who wrote a useful book called *Imperial Ecology: Environmental Order in the British Empire, 1895-1945*. In this BBC piece Anker quoted Tansley proclaiming his devotion to “The Great Universal Law of Equilibrium”, and that equilibrium was his assumption for *everything*, be it mechanical systems, ecosystems, or the human mind.

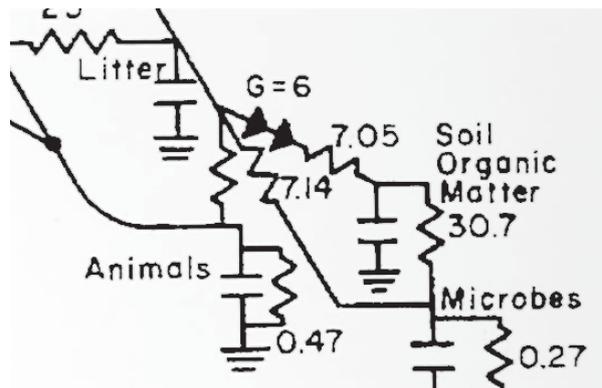
They then introduce computer pioneer Jay Forrester, as a leader in cybernetics and systems analysis, who defined the whole world as a machine-like ecosystem: “We live in these networks of feedback loops...” Forrester babbles like a mad scientist about everything in the universe being feedback loops, etc. The narrator: “And cybernetics transformed the idea of the ecosystem. *It would lead ecology to rise up and become one of the dominant sciences of the 20th century.*”

The two key figures in this were two followers of Tansley, the ecologist brothers Howard and Eugene Odum. Eugene Odum’s book, *Fundamentals of Ecology*, “became the Bible of the science.” He “portrayed the whole planet as a network of interlinked ecosystems. And Tansley’s machine hypothesis became a scientific certainty. But to make their theory work, the Odum brothers distorted the reality. They simplified the data to an extraordinary degree. They pared down the data to fit the circuits they had drawn. This fusion of cybernetics and ecology led to a new principle for organising human society as well. One of Howard Odum’s associates later wrote that what they were doing was creating a machine-like fantasy of stability...”

The Odums maintained that the ecosystems were actual electrical circuits, which the documentary shows sketches of: “The ecosystems were drawn out as electrical circuits with feedback loops that showed



Ecology pioneer Howard Odum, who simplified nature down to a system of electrical circuits with feedback loops—the definitive “ecosystem”.



how energy flowed around the systems, through the animals and the plants. [Howard] Odum even built real electric circuits to represent Nature. He believed that you could monitor the feedbacks and decide when they weren't sufficient, so you could intervene to bring them back to equilibrium."

Disputing this, ecologist Dr. Daniel Botkin rubbished the Odum ecosystem model as maintaining that "If you left nature alone, it would run like a perfectly-oiled piston engine"—the "mathematics of machinery", as he characterised the Odums' outlook. (Again, an utterly self-contradictory proposition, since what machinery runs on and on by itself indefinitely?)

Then there is a section on another mad scientist, Buckminster Fuller, and his role in creating the "Spaceship Earth" concept based on ecosystems. "By the late 1960s the idea of ecosystems and cybernetics had fused together, and out of it came an epic new vision of the world."

Under the subtitle, "The Doomsday Machine", the documentary continues, "It was clear that there was a serious global environmental crisis by the early 1970s. Jay Forrester knew how to solve the problem. He became involved with the Club of Rome." And for the Club of Rome, he "built a model of the whole world as one system", with the different variables of population growth, resources, investment in agriculture, pollution, etc. Forrester set up a team of cyberneticists who created a model which predicted imminent total global collapse. The BBC team asked Forrester, "When you ran that model, what did it show?" Forrester: "It showed in all likelihood that the population would overshoot the carrying capacity of the world and then you would have a collapse of the population back to lower levels and the standard of living would constantly decline."

The Club of Rome then held a press conference predicting global disaster, and the documentary runs clips of British intelligence figure Alexander King, a co-founder of the Club of Rome, predicting total doom. The Club of Rome "published *Limits to Growth*. It became a bestseller and transformed our way of thinking of nature." Based on this, the UN held its first ever conference on the "world population crisis". The documentary showed footage of a snobbish British woman addressing the conference blasting national sovereignty, and demanding that "world governments must give up on promoting growth and instead create a new, steady state for the world." Their job was to hold the world's system in *equilibrium* to avoid the collapse.



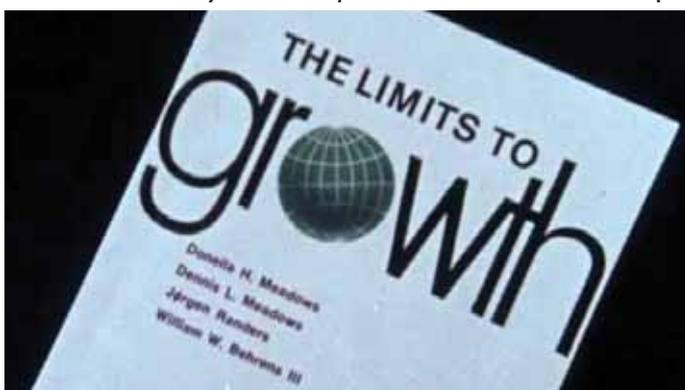
George Van Dyne (left) and his students in the Grasslands Project. Searching for equilibrium in his model, Van Dyne added more and more data which resulted in wild instability—"balanced" nature was a myth.

Forrester: "The idea of growth is in contrast to the idea of equilibrium ... maintaining a constant level of population ... a man-made equilibrium of our own." (i.e. like Tansley's equilibrium of nature.)

Finally, the filmmakers explain how this was all false: "In the middle 1970s the fatal flaw in the idea of self-regulating ecosystems was exposed. A new generation of ecologists showed that nature was always in a state of dynamic change." The documentary then quotes an ecologist saying that many of his fellows became almost hysterical because the cardinal belief of their entire outlook had been disproved. The final nail in the coffin of ecosystems came, ironically, via the work of a devotee of ecosystems, an American named George Van Dyne. Van Dyne did a computer model of the grasslands of Colorado called "the Grasslands Project", in which he plugged zillions and zillions of variables into giant computers. His intent was to prove that ecosystems exist, and that they are inherently stable, in equilibrium. "But the more data Van Dyne put in, the more it showed wild instability." He died at age 48, the documentary implies because he was such an obsessed lunatic. "Van Dyne's death marked the end of the systems theory, the 'balance of nature'."

The documentary then ties these developments in with its overall theme of machines being used to create an all-ruling, all-encompassing utopian information ecosystem. Al Gore is quoted lauding the creation of "completely new information ecosystems", and he comes across in context as looking like a total fool. Throughout all this, there is a constant refrain of how this Tansley "ecosystem" idea applied to society through computers and cybernetics, has been a disaster, from hippie communes to the various "Orange" and other failed revolutions from 2003 on, organised by Facebook, etc.

This documentary, and the other two in the series, provides useful details to complement the CEC's own, more deeply-rooted exposé of these green concepts, published in the latest *New Citizen*. Together, they confirm beyond doubt that what the British Crown and its green fascists are pushing as environmental science, is just an out-and-out fraud. The film doesn't say it, but the *New Citizen* provides all the evidence one could wish, to demonstrate that what inevitably follows a widespread belief in "ecosystems", is not only genocide, but that that genocide is the *intent* behind this British imperial cult doctrine.



The Club of Rome's *Limits to Growth* book forecast doom.

Isherwood: “Tony Burke: I challenge you to debate!”

Citizens Electoral Council leader Craig Isherwood today issued a stinging challenge to Environment Minister Tony Burke to debate the “science” upon which rests the entirety of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s Proposed Basin Plan—that of “ecosystems”.

“Most people know by now, that the MDBA’s proposed devastating cuts in irrigation derive from John Howard’s *Water Act 2007*. It is also generally admitted that that Act, in turn, was written specifically to conform to the dictates of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, founded in 1971 as a spin-off from Prince Philip’s WWF. And Ramsar’s entire outlook, including their justification for such actually genocidal cuts, is in turn based upon the ‘science’ of ‘ecosystems’, as one glance at the home page of Ramsar’s website will convince you.

“So the justification for Burke’s planned devastation of the whole Murray-Darling Basin—which has actually been under way for years now via ‘voluntary’ water buybacks—rises or falls on whether ‘ecosystems’ actually exist, or whether the whole notion is a scam no better than the hocus-pocus of some tribal witchdoctor. In my two speeches to the CEC’s 23rd-24th July national conference of this year, ‘Cosmic Radiation Beats Green Fascism’, I proved the latter beyond any reasonable doubt.

“Imagine my happiness, then, to have just learned that a documentary recently aired on Britain’s august BBC, has buttressed my argument 100 per cent.

“I encourage everyone to go watch the documentary itself, entitled *All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace*. But, to summarise briefly, the second of its three parts aired on 30th May 2011 on Britain’s BBC2 under the headlines: ‘This is a story about the rise of the machines and our belief in the balance of nature. How the idea of the ecosystem was invented. How it inspired us. *And how it wasn’t even true*’.

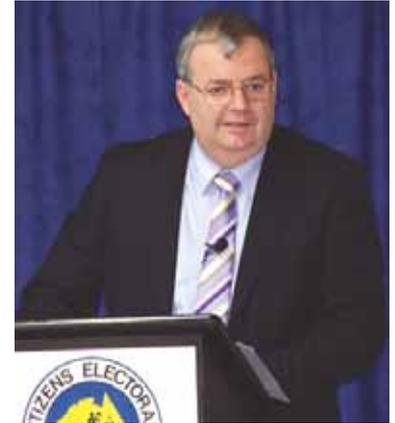
“In terms very similar to mine, this BBC special documented how and why the British Empire’s Sir Arthur Tansley (who basically invented the science of ‘ecology’ in the first half of the 20th century), had coined the term ‘ecosystems’ in a famous 1935 article. After World War I, said the documentary, Tansley had had a dream in which he murdered his wife. In order to find out what the dream meant, he went to visit Sigmund Freud in Vienna in 1922. The film recounted, ‘an obscure part of Freud’s theory that said the human brain was actually an electrical machine. That the sense data that came in through the eyes and the ears created bursts of energy that flowed around networks inside the brain, just like electrical circuits. Tansley was fascinated by this ... he decided that he could take this model of the mind and apply it to the whole of the natural world.’ And so the notion of ‘ecosystems’ was born.

“Then, the documentary continued, this Tansley schema was popularised by two of his acolytes, Howard and Eugene Odum, ecologists who were also heavily influenced by the post-World War II, cybernetics ‘systems theory’ doctrine of Norbert Wiener, which was just as mechanistic as the Freud/Tansley notion of the human mind as an electrical appliance. Eugene’s book, the *Fundamentals of Ecology*, a fusion of Tansley and cybernetics, ‘became the bible of the science’ of ecology, the documentary reported, pivoted upon the idea of ‘ecosystems’. There was only one problem, as explained by a couple of modern ecologists whom the documentary interviewed: this utterly mechanistic model of nature has now been proven to be *completely false*, in that it boiled down the processes of *life* (i.e. of Nature), to those of mere *machines*. And the processes of life, of nature as a whole, said these ecologists, are very dynamic and highly evolving, unlike the now-discredited ‘equilibrium’ models of Tansley and the cyberneticists.

“Therefore, in light of the proof presented in our latest *New Citizen*, and in this BBC documentary that the notion of ‘eco-systems’ is just shameless quackery, I challenge Tony Burke to debate this matter.

“However, I suspect that the former Wilderness Society activist Tony is both too gutless, and too ignorant to debate me. In that case, I will happily take on any champion of his choice. He can pick from any of the academic or governmental citadels of Green Fascism, whether from his own Sustainable Population department; from the hacks at the CSIRO or the Australian Academy of Science; from the stable of greenies at the Wentworth Group of quackademics, at the ACF, or at Ramsar; or from any other gaggle of ‘environmental experts’.

“After all, it’s just ‘objective science’, right Tony? So what do you have to lose? You of course are well aware that the CEC is the most relentless, most informed opposition to your genocidal Basin plan. So surely one of your experts can discredit me and the CEC just on the basis of the ‘science’? Or are they all just gutless liars as you are?”



CEC Leader Craig Isherwood