



# RETROSUBURBIA

THE DOWNSHIFTER'S GUIDE TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

## CHAPTER 24: OWNERSHIP AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

### QUESTIONS:

- If you didn't already covered it discussions on Chapter 3, discuss the 'Household form and location matrix' – which quadrant appeals to you? Are there examples of people you know living in each? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
- Have group members had direct experience with any of the patterns in the chapter? (ie Extended family households / Hosting volunteers / Household landlord / Communication and agreements / Neighbourhood landlord / Sharing house ownership / Co-ordinated purchase of adjacent houses / Relocating to a country town / Renting in preferred area / Shared rental household / Studio living / Squatting / Co-housing by retrofit / Tiny houses / Network nomads). Share your experiences.
- Are your current living arrangements working for you? How do they make you feel: happy, stressed, secure, unsettled... How do you think they will work into the future? Would you change things if you could? Do you have plans for change? If participants are comfortable, the group can workshop some of the living arrangements of those that do not feel secure or happy – suggest some strategies for improvement in both long and short term.
- Using the table on p 379 as a starting point, discuss if any of these strategies might make sense for where you are at this particular time. What would you need to do to get there?
- Discuss your experiences as volunteers (this could be in any context). What made this a positive (or negative) experience? What did you learn from it? Why do you think volunteers would like to visit a retrosuburban household?

### ACTIVITIES:

- If there are group members who feel unsure about hosting volunteers but want to explore it as a useful strategy, practice with other members of the group: volunteer at each others places. You could even have another member come and stay for at least two nights and explore how the household works with the extra person, how time and work is allocated to the needs of the volunteer, and how easy or difficult it is to find and explain tasks – and see how much work can get done in a couple of days!
- Volunteer with someone you don't know – join WWOOF, HelpX, WorkAway or other service for a short productive holiday.

