

Communication Extracts

(Sustainability Challenges)

Please consider these extracts from real-time communications that took place during the establishing of W-BAD. These may give some indication of the challenges regarding sustainability.

- When purchasing the W-BAD domain for \$25: “What a mission that was - I had no credit on my credit card, so after finding out why I couldn’t pay through HostGator, I had to contact the credit card company and apply for a special extension - being poor sucks. Just made me realise, how the hell I’m I going to get to Tokyo and back on July 11...?”
- Fees: “Unfortunately, Milo, I have no money and live in [dire circumstances](#). Everything I do, I do on a [volunteer basis](#). This is all done at my own expense, so I am unable to pay a fee – can’t even pay my water bill etc.”
- “P.S. I’m in serious trouble now - facing the possibility of being homeless again next month...”
- “Thanks Nic and Landy - off to have lunch with John (W-BAD Technical Advisor) now - I think, still haven’t paid my phone bill, so can’t even call him to confirm...”
- “Need to have some lunch (BTW, so broke, just took the last \$8 out of my bank, which being coins in Japan, meant that I had to do a bankbook transaction at the counter), then after lunch, need to make some small progress on my book before shooting off to my part time job. Thanks again, Wayne.”
- “I only have \$10 to buy food until payday, which is still 2 weeks away...and many unpaid bills... (surprised my internet hasn’t been cut off yet – they’ve somehow forgotten about me since the shift - but I’m sure they’ll catch up sooner or later with a massive bill...) As you know, my PayPal was shut down because PayPal Japan wouldn’t allow me to receive donations through crowdfunding.”

- “In one hour from now, I am meeting a mutual friend of John Koon’s and mine to borrow \$100 which is to last me 2.5 weeks till payday with threats to shut of amenities for unpaid bills, so it won’t be enough but gets me a few more meals... I did write The Japan report on the W-BAD FB page and several other posts with photos, which is the best I can do for now...Hope you guys are doing okay. Take care, Wayne.”
- “I was so busy over the last 7 months preparing for W-BAD that when my light blew out a couple of months ago, I couldn’t be bothered replacing it. Today, I finally got around to cleaning up my place (what a mess), and yes, I changed the light bulb. Now all I have to do is pay the electricity bill! You might notice in the photo that the calendar on the wall says June 2015 – just too damn busy for the small things... Wayne.”
- W-BAD Store: “I think the W-BAD Store is a fantastic idea, and it needs to be made clear that these items help to raise awareness all year round, which leads to more involvement in each successive year. The purpose is not to make money, but whatever funds are raised, get returned back into W-BAD to cover costs and to fund other related activities. Personally, I don’t really want to get involved with money.”
- “It seems there are only 2 options left. One is to forget it altogether. The other is to ask my friend who is extremely busy and has absolutely nothing to do with BZs. If I decide to attempt the later, I will need to offer him payment. However, after we gave in to the complainers and gave all of the t-shirt money to As Prescribed, there’s nothing left to fund W-BAD related activities. Do you think there’s any chance that we could run the t-shirt campaign again next year? Wayne.”
- While receiving no funding through W-BAD and determined to make the [W-BAD wrap up video](#), I talked to my boss who kindly gave me another extension on my loan with the school to buy a new computer to make the video among other things.
- “I actually had to take a year away from writing my book to organise W-BAD, and due to my circumstances, it’s killing me and has resulted in me having to stay on in Japan for another year with all kinds of implications (financial, emotional, circumstantial, health etc).

- W-BAD Store: “This is available not for profit, but for spreading the word – simple and straight (although W-BAD could do with some funding, instead of weighing on certain individuals).”
- “The entire one year that I poured into organising the inaugural event (2016) has pushed my already compromised life completely over the edge, affecting every facet, including health and finance (i.e. from having nothing, and in the red, to further behind) and resulted in my needing to stay in Japan for another year, after 17 years of torment and being away from home and family already. W-BAD has no funding and the burden it placed on me with time away from work has been immense.”
- “Thanks Nic - things are crazy now - shift on Tues - get out of this shit-hole of 6 years! Problem is: Just between us, I got some compensation from Fukushima last month. But because I now have to stay on in Japan for another year, I don’t get to take that home to NZ with me. Instead, I will now have to use all of it to pay rent, and set myself up again, while I try to finish my book. So in effect, I’ve ended up paying for me to set up W-BAD last year... (both time and money - back to being minus, as usual...) Never mind, can only look forward now...”
- Nicole wrote to Meredith: “Hey - Would you be interested in being acting treasurer for W-BAD? We need a PayPal account set up using the gmail account where any donations (from the website) can go. The funds from the Zazzle shop can also be transferred there. Wayne can’t do it bc Japan shut down his PayPal account for accepting donations for his book. Idk wtf that’s about – he’s a mess.”
- “Hi Nic and Landy, sorry I haven’t been contactable since having to move out of my evacuee accommodation. My shift has been a disaster, and I am in now in big trouble. I have no internet and totally unsure what to do - cannot move again because I have no money, cannot write anything more on my book (because of environment) and now just stuck in limbo as time continues to click away... I’m stuck.
- Japan Pamphlet: “I don’t have this (revised version) yet because I haven’t the money to get it out of the shop – W-BAD has no funding, as you know, and I am broken arse!”

- “Appreciate the thought, but I don’t want anything to do with money - it just gets too messy. I’m getting a reimbursement from Fukushima (50% rent subsidy reimbursement soon, so I’ll use that to get the (W-BAD Japan) pamphlet out of the shop. As you know, I have a hard copy of the Japan pamphlet, but not the data). Will forward it to you when I get it.”
- “Yes, I know, I tried that once before. I might consider paying that myself, as I will have another \$100 on my credit card after tomorrow, but then I wanted to get a W-BAD shirt - sucks having no money.”
- “I just went to the medical art shop to make a payment and receive the data for the Japanese pamphlet.”
- “At some point, if we continue to expand a lot, we may need a W-BAD Treasurer, and I really don’t want to get too involved in money - at present - we just need to remove the financial burden from ourselves.”
- “Good news, I just had a phone call from Ms. Shimada and things are looking on again for Tokyo and I might still end up going yet. I knew the kick-arse website would get people back on-board! Also, I did a major posting and mass e-mail in Japanese – leading by example! Just depends on if people will still chip in for my expenses because I can’t even pay the rent after next.”
- “I have to fly - late for my part time job and have a meeting with my boss to try and keep my head above water!”
- “I just ordered some things from the Zazzle Store, but not enough on my credit card (had to buy some food last night), so placed a pending order by way of bank transfer yet to be done.”
- “I’ve been called into the City Tax Office - they want to know when I’m going to start making tax payments. I always tell them that when the governmental systems fail people like me, it’s a bit difficult. So, here we go again - hate this! Then, I have to do other things (like a bank transfer for my W-BAD gear - more important than tax!) before my part time job. Talk later, Wayne.”

- “Regarding where the funds are going from the store, if at all possible, I’d like to include covering hosting costs for the website, because I paid many of these things out of my own pocket last year and would appreciate if we can at least cover that - I think being W-BAD, that W-BAD should at least receive something like that... Thanks.”
- “P.S. My Fukushima money has now all gone - swallowed up with the accommodation shift etc. I am now facing the prospect of selling my car, so that I can apply for income assistance...”
- “Personally, I would like to be able to cover hosting costs for the website, because it has been me bearing those costs despite being totally in a wrecked financial state in Japan - just trying to eat from day to day. Maybe people won’t fully appreciate that until one day when the website shuts down due to non-payment. Anything else, I’m happy for it to go to ‘As Prescribed’ again this year, Wayne.”
- “The Health Ministry visit is definitely going according to plan. Only thing is: I have no money, so still not sure if I’m going to make it there - doing my best while trying to think about where my next meal and next lot of rent is coming from...Will keep you informed, Wayne.”
- Transport Cover: “As you know, I have difficulty affording to live from day to day making it difficult for me to travel to Tokyo this year, but I’d really like to ensure that the event succeeds, so with that in mind, I’m grateful that people can pitch in to cover my travel expenses in part. I’ll just use my rent money for now to make it up to Tokyo.”
- “I’m going to Tokyo on Monday afternoon and will have dinner with my lawyer from my BZ court case of 8 years ago. Then on Tuesday, I will join the ministry visitation (my boss said he will lend me some money until the rebate from Fukushima rent payment - half rent comes through, when I will repay my boss and have nothing left for my next rent, but that’s the way I live from day to day, so just one thing at a time - the bottom line is that I AM GOING TO TOKYO!”

- “People seem to take the time aspect for granted, and yet for me, it’s the time aspect that has been the biggest cost of all... Then all this money thing is going to do now is become more of a burden on me yet again (resulting in more time losses and burdens) - probably prevent me from getting onto a benefit (if I ever get home) and result in more people moaning and demanding justification. So why do I even want to do this? For a start, I want to end any further burden on me (even if the burden thus far doesn’t matter) - at the very least, I don’t want to have to pay the website fees.”
- “I don’t know if I can do this – I’m too broken - it will burden me further and cause me more problems - problems that I have absolutely no way of dealing with. Getting involved in money is just going to destroy me - how many times can a person be destroyed, by the way...? Don’t know anymore...just becomes clouded after so many years.... I simply cannot take any more responsibility on. If I have to, I’ll just pay the website fees myself... God knows how...”
- “This is hard for me now Landy, I’m in total shit street both time and money wise – as outlined in the e-mail titled: W-BAD Donations (considerations) sent on July 14. I gave so much in the initial setting up that I am now totally spent and find myself in a race against the clock to get as much of my book done as possible, and then try to get back home to NZ while my mother is still alive.”
- “I have just sent what I have to Nic for uploading to FB. It is 1.15 am here in Japan and I’ve just got back from Tokyo. Unfortunately, the video quality is extremely poor, because so am I, and I don’t own a smartphone, iPad or video camera. I used a very old digital camera that a friend lent to me.”
- “Setting up W-BAD just killed me, and I have exhausted all means of staying on in Japan.”
- Donating to As Prescribed: “Unfortunately, you’ve caught me at a time when I have absolutely no time for at least the next 48 hours – things are hectic...and all my stuff is being packed up and sent away... If the above is agreeable, please prepare and send me the draft with instructions on how I can make a personal donation by credit card (while it still has a minimal amount left on it...) Wayne. Must shoot out now – so much to do!”
- “P.S. I got my in-VISIBLE shirt today, in fact, my mother bought it for me as I’m broke... It’s due to arrive on July 7th. Giri-giri (Japanese for cutting it fine...)”

NB: Now in 2022, following an unsuccessful attempt at returning to home New Zealand, I find myself back in Japan under similar circumstances to the above, as I singlehandedly attempt to relaunch W-BAD after it was subjected to internal subversion with largescale dismantling, dehumanisation and defunctionalisation.