

# **BORDERlands**

## **News from across the border**

July 2011  
Special News Sheet

Dear members, friends, supporters and all others interested in Borderlands,

This is a special news sheet with information about events occurring before you will receive the next newsletter. We hope you can take the time to read it and, more importantly, attend some of the events!

It's a rather strange public environment at present, isn't it? The convergence of the Wikileaks, the Murdoch empire 'collapse' and the global warming 'debates' certainly make for interesting contrasts... we do hope that at least some people will make the necessary connections... whilst interest for things to do with social change seem rather subdued in spite of all these 'big item' news-bits, we, at Borderlands will quietly continue to contribute to or initiate needed transformations... so, hear this call, dear all:

*"..... to open one's sensibilities out to the oppression of others, the exploitation of others, the injustices and inequalities meted out to others - and to act upon them - making an individual/local cause into an issue, turning issues into causes and causes into movements and building in the process a new political culture, new communities of resistance that will take on power, capital and class" (Sivanandan, 1989, quoted in the 'arvac bulletin' 2011).*

Do let us know if there is some action you would like to support - an individual's or local area cause that could become a movement—Borderlands is nothing but our members' and friends' actions... So what about this:

This month, a company in Melbourne, Australia is lobbying for the right to hold a children's beauty pageant. Pitting young girls against each other in a competition based on hypersexualized physical appearance and performance is harmful to their well-being. A study conducted by Anna Wonderlich et al (2005) in the *Journal of Treatment and Prevention* reported 'A significant association between childhood beauty pageant participation and increased body dissatisfaction, difficulty trusting interpersonal relationships, and greater impulsive behaviours and indicates a trend toward increased feelings of ineffectiveness.'

Kids free 2B Kids, the Australian Childhood Foundation and Psychologist Dr Michael Carr Gregg have previously called for children under 14 to be banned from these contests. Television shows like *Toddlers and Tiaras* reveal the child exploitation endemic in these pageants. Child advocates around the world have spoken out about the sexualised Child advocates around the world have spoken out about the sexualised clothing, suggestive dance moves, hours of grooming and preening required. They have expressed concern about the way pageants provide external validation to girls that their physical appearance is what is most important in being female. They have criticised the way child beauty pageants re-inforce stereotypical norms about female beauty. They have also pointed out that adultifying children in pageants and elsewhere invites us to see them as older than they are, which puts them (and other children) at risk of inappropriate treatment. Pitting young girls against each other in a competition based on physical appearance and performance is harmful to their well-being. Research on the sexualisation of children shows that reinforcing an emphasis on looks and attractiveness leads to negative body image, disordered eating, depression, anxiety and low self-esteem. We call on the Federal Minister for Early Childhood and Youth, the Hon. Peter Garrett and the Victoria Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, Wendy Lovell, to take action to prevent these style of pageants in Australia and (with State colleagues) to consider legislative measures to ban all future pageants for children. <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/>

**Jacques and Vicki and the team .....**

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### **Newsletter Deadlines**

This newsletter is to inform you of all the Borderlands happenings. We need your input! Please send articles or details of your latest events etc. (preferably in electronic format) to the Editor at: [borders@borderlands.org.au](mailto:borders@borderlands.org.au)

*Deadlines for the next issues are:*

**September Issue: 17th August**



Oases Programs in Integrative and Transformative Studies - learning for personal growth and global response-ability

## An oases Community Learning Activity

at the Augustine Centre 2 Minona Street Hawthorn

NEWS....NEWS.....NEWS August 30th & 31st, 2011

### **Disaster Resilience Community Leadership**

two-day Seminar with Meg Wheatley & Angela Blanchard

Prevention, Adaptation, Suffering or Transformation?

‘Tier-upon-Tier’ Top-Down Disaster Recovery & ‘Peer-to-Peer’ Bottom-up Community Renewal

“Leadership has never been as difficult and perplexing as it is today. Having to deal with ongoing surprise, uncertainty, volatility and havoc is the new normal.” Meg Wheatley, 2010

#### About Meg:

She is an internationally respected writer, speaker, and teacher for how we can accomplish our work, sustain our relationships, and willingly step forward to serve in this troubling time. She is co-founder and President Emerita of The Berkana Institute, a charitable foundation that works in partnership with a rich diversity of people around the world who strengthen their communities by working with the wisdom and wealth already present in their people, traditions and environment. She’s been an organisational consultant since 1973, a global citizen since her youth, a professor in two graduate business programs, and a happy mother and grandmother. In 2002, the American Society for Training and Development awarded Meg Wheatley their highest honour and dubbed her a ‘Living Legend.’

#### About Angela:

She recognised for her pioneering work in community development that focuses on the human, social and cultural strengths of vulnerable populations. Blanchard is the president and CEO of Houston-based Neighbourhood Centres Inc., one of the top 1% of U.S.-based charitable groups. Neighbourhood Centres Inc. serves 250,000 clients annually through 60 facilities in the Houston and Gulf Coast regions. She has been widely praised for her innovation in developing “a powerful transformational model” with important implications for community re-development and renewal efforts throughout the nation. She has been named one of Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women by Houston Women Magazine and was a ‘Shattered Glass Honouree’ of the Harris County Women’s Political Caucus.

Please email Red Cross Australia at [seminar@redcross.org.au](mailto:seminar@redcross.org.au) to register

*Project Partners include:* Green Cross Australia, Berry Street Family care,

UnitingCare Kildonan, Australian Red Cross, CatholicCare, Borderlands Cooperative, oases Graduate School

Venue: Augustine Centre 2 Minona Street Hawthorn 3122

Augustine Centre





***Oases Programs in Integrative and Transformative Studies -  
learning for personal growth and global response-ability***

An oases Community Learning Activity  
at the Augustine Centre 2 Minona Street Hawthorn  
cost waged \$25, unwaged \$15

RSVP to OASES 03 9819 3502 or email [info@oases.edu.au](mailto:info@oases.edu.au)

Oases breakfast: Saturday August 6—from 9:00 a.m.

***Between loneliness and relational being:  
the existential need for social connection***

Jacques Boulet, Head of School, oases Graduate School & Borderlands Cooperative

Slowly – and somewhat counter-culturally given our seemingly ever-growing and endemic individualism – the importance of social connection, of the ‘relational’ re-emerges from a variety of research and theoretical endeavours. As electronics and technology seem to suggest an ever more intricate capability to ‘connect and ‘stay in touch’, the quality of our relating seems to diminish, giving raise to a growing number of personal and social ills – not to speak of the damage to the environment our rampant striving for individual ‘independence’ causes.

As the African proverb has it: “*If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together*”... could it be that ‘going slow’ whilst savouring our social and ecological connections are the only way to assure the survival of the species beyond the next generation?

Jacques has lived and worked in about all continents (except Antarctica) and learned a lot from all the people he has had the privilege of working and living with. Being a ‘social’ worker (for over 45 years) and a ‘socio’-logist (for 26 years), his interest in the ‘social’ or ‘relational’ should not surprise... He has been – in some way or form – an academic for about 40 years as well...

***Further oases Community Learning Activities at the  
Augustine Centre, 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn***

**September 3** Oases participants and others who participated in the Kanyini oases seminar in May 2011, when 14 people went on a journey to Uluru to spend time with Uncle Bob Randall and his family; we found a beautiful people and landscape that captivated our hearts and we would like to share our story of that journey with you.

**October 1** Professor Maryanne Confoy, RSC

**October 8** Saturday evening 2011 Oases Graduation Dinner and Con-ferral

**November 5** Professor Joseph Camilleri, La Trobe University School of Politics and Director of the Centre for Dialogue

**December 3** Oases participants share stories from their projects & jour-neys





What does a carbon tax mean, why do we need one, and how can households reduce its impact?

Find out at Lighter Footprints' public forum:

## **How to live well with a price on carbon**

### **Speakers**

**Tim Costello**, CEO, World Vision Australia.

**Anna Burke**, Federal MP for Chisholm.

**Alan Pears**, Adjunct Professor, Environment and Planning, RMIT

There will be an opportunity for audience questions and discussion.

**Wednesday 10 August: 7.30 to 9.30pm,**

**Chandelier Room, Hawthorn Town Hall,**

**360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn**

**Melway 45, D10**

**Tea, coffee available from 7.00pm**

Gold coin donation

Further inquiries: 9836 0925 Carolyn Ingvarson

[www.lighterfootprints.org](http://www.lighterfootprints.org)

**[Lighterfootprints are partners of the Borderlands Cooperative]**

**BORDERLANDS COOPERATIVE**

# Evolving Spirituality

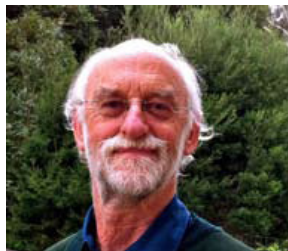
**From 8pm 22-25 September 2011**

**Moora Moora Cooperative Community Healesville**

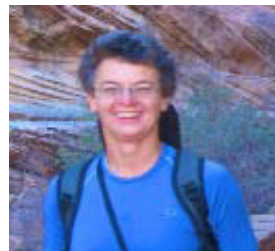
*“Human spirituality emerges from co-creative participation in an always dynamic and undetermined mystery” Ferrer*

We will explore the meaning and experience of being a partner in the evolving expression of spirituality. How does spirit enable us to be self-transforming to meet a challenging world? How are we being invited to partner spirit so as to create a vibrant future for all of life?

## *Facilitators*



**Dr. Peter**



**Cock  
and Dr. Ca-  
resse Cranwell**

**and Dr. Ca-**

**Investment: \$600 or \$400 unwaged**

*includes accommodation and food*

*For more information and registration*

[www.ecoevolutionaries.com](http://www.ecoevolutionaries.com)

**contact: [caresse.cranwell@gmail.com](mailto:caresse.cranwell@gmail.com) or [peter@mooramooraa.org.au](mailto:peter@mooramooraa.org.au)**

## ***Project: Community Bake*** **August - November 2011**

Our team would like to invite you to participate in the proposed community engagement project below. You may like to participate by becoming a community baker, offering hands on support for differently-abled participants, providing a donation of money or food so that someone broke can still participate in their community, or you may know of others who would like to participate in some way.

The goal is to build bridges by creating local social connections, while addressing the practical issue of not only food preparation, but of isolation and food poverty for people who are single or single parents, elderly or simply struggling to make ends meet because of low income.

Local community members can come together at Borderlands once a week, for 8 weeks, to each cook a big batch recipe, for sharing with the other participants of the project. Everyone goes home with home-cooked dinners, ready to go and/or store.

### The Project

Borderlands Cooperative would like to support an initiative for creating and enacting community engagement by catalysing a self-generating community bake project. This would tap into the initiative of Mama Bakes worldwide community of big batch cooking and the wealth of hidden and as yet unexposed talent and desire to learn and share that exists in all community members.

The initiative involves local community members getting together once a week and each member cooking a big batch recipe. The batch then gets divvied up amongst all the participants at the end of the session, and everyone goes home with home-cooked dinners, ready to go for themselves and/or their families. Local community members will be invited to come someone prefers to cook the night before and bring in their

pre-prepared batch would be most welcome to do so, as they can then benefit from the conversation and support they offer others. Participants will need to bring a stack of take away containers for their Community Bake 'booty'. Each persons' pot/dish goes on the table with all the others for divvying up, allowing about a ladle and a half per person whether they be adult or child, this generally works out, but they'll find what works best. Participants can then take home their Community Bake goodies.

The project will probably be of most interest to single parents, singles who hate cooking alone, isolated people on low incomes, young or old. There should be enough people present to help distract any youngsters from hot ovens. We would like to include everyone – culturally and linguistically diverse, differently-abled and differently-aged, those struggling with mental health problems and anyone enthusiastic to develop and/or enhance their own skills, support others and/or grow a sense of and strong community. Interested participants can make and share their most simple, important, cheapest or flamboyant recipes (soup, entrée, main course, desserts, cakes).

A significant goal will be to make the project sustainable, so that it may occur annually, and so that those who meet through this project, may then take the idea home and continue to make and share recipes as group, rotating the venue each time or develop new groups amongst themselves, long after the project is over. The groups' general food values will be established at the start, and when group members are unwell or otherwise occupied (giving birth for example), the community bakers can make sure the food goes a little further and deliver a home package, thus covering one another's backs.

Please contact me, Vicki O'Dwyer on 98193239 or

[borders@borderlands.org.au](mailto:borders@borderlands.org.au) so that we can meet to discuss links that we may be able to form in order to make viable, commence and sustain this project. I work Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at Borderlands Cooperative, but you can email at any time.



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