



BORDERlands

News from across the border

September 2008
Volume 1 | Issue 3

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Dear friends, readers and members of the Cooperative,
...can't believe the year is already where it is... September! It could be that it's just one part of getting older, but it does seem to me that there's more momentum associated with it all... Probably there's the sense of urgency which seems to be associated with all the drama of climate change and time 'running out' on that; with US elections—presented to us by 'our' media as if we're the ones having to make 'their' choices; our own governments—federal, state and local—stalling or equivocating on almost everything we think needs good discussion and determined action...; with the Olym-peccadilloes—with all associated exhibitionistic pseudo-dramas of higher, faster, costlier, dopier - come and gone and new 'bread-and-circuses' events announcing themselves relentlessly; and with us at Borderlands (and associated organisations) trying to slow down, reflect and include as many as possible into this reflection... yes, probably no wonder time seems to go faster and crazier and more and more uncontrollable...

We will have our **Annual General Meeting on Thursday the 16th of October, at 7:00 p.m. at Borderlands in the Library. Those of you interesting in getting more involved in the working and doings of the Cooperative, please think of nominating or being nominated for a Directorship... or of getting involved otherwise... A nomination form is inserted in this newsletter (and for email recipients, it is accessible from the web-site).**

At the AGM you will also have an opportunity to hear the latest from all the several associated organisations—Borderlands has indeed shaped itself as a kind of an interconnected spider web of activism: New Community Quarterly, Students Partnership Worldwide, East Timor Women Australia, Community Links with Cambodia, oases, ANTaR Boroondara, Abuse Specific Help, Know the Odds and several others using our premises for meetings, celebrations, whatever. So, please do take this opportunity to re-acquaint yourselves with one-another, with the place and see whether there's anything you may like to get involved in.

We do need help in certain areas, for example, we would be delighted if someone would help out with taking regular care of our website, we're working with the Augustine people to do some landscaping around the place, we're developing a new set of offerings in association with oases and Augustine, referred to as the **'oases community learning and research centre'** and we want input and help with it all...

So I am—and all 'regulars' at Borderlands are—looking forward to catching up on the 16th of October—if not before!

All the best from all of us...

Jacques on behalf of the Board and the regulars...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 31 Aug** 'Avoiding Catastrophic Climate Change'
- 6 Sep** Annual oases Dinner & Book Launch
- 11-12 Sep** 'The Whole Person' conference
- 12 Sep** Amnesty International Annual Dinner
- 13 Sep** 'Communication Know How' workshop
- 13/14 Sep** 'Creating Peaceful Pathways' workshop
- 18 Sep** 'Human Rights Overboard' launch
- 19 - 21 Sep** Balgo Women's Law Camp
- 20 Sep** 'Grant Seeking Know How' workshop
- 21 Sep** Permaculture Open Day
- 22 - 28 Sep** 'Stillness in Action' Retreat
- 26 - 28 Sep** 'Youth Lead' Three Day Workshop
- 4 Oct:** oases Breakfast: Jacques Boulet (oases) 'Can we imagine another way of relating?'
- 11 Oct** 'Media Know How' workshop
- 16 Oct** **Borderlands AGM (7:00 p.m.)**
- 17 - 18 &**
- 28 - 29th Oct** 'Mobilising for Change' Two Day Workshop
- 28-30 Oct** COMMACT International Conference
- 1 Nov** oases Breakfast: r Robert Hoskin (oases) "The HMAS Sydney: an account of national and personal loss".
- 26 / 28 Nov** International Conference: 'Social Development and Transition'
- 27-28 Nov** National Conference: 'Critical pedagogy and participatory learning for social transformation: The role of higher education'
- 29 Nov** oases Breakfast: Daniel Schugurensky (Toronto) 'Transformative learning & social change'.

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

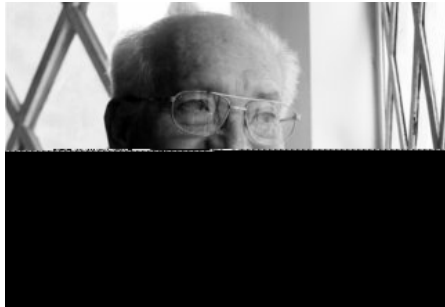
Deadlines for the next issues are:

December Issue: 20th November

March Issue: 20th February

Orlando Fals Borda – Died 12th August 2008

Orlando Fals Borda founded the qualitative research method called Participatory Action Research (PAR), which aims to meet community needs and try to transform their reality to their satisfaction.



Our friend in participatory action research, Orlando, we thank you for your enormous life-long contribution both to your own people and to all of us world-wide.

The Whole Person:

sustainable futures in living, learning and working

ALARA Australian Conference 2008

September 11-12 Canberra

Hosted by the Centre for Education Excellence

Announcing the 2008 Action Learning and Action Research Association Australian Conference and inviting interest:

The conference theme explores the encroachment of economic rationalist approaches to our work and life and its dominance in areas such as health and education particularly. That approach is often pursued at the expense of community development and the wellbeing of individuals and families, not to mention workplaces and our educational institutions.

The central focus of this year's conference is on sustainability concerns in

- ◆ **education** (e.g. developing sustainable curricula),
- ◆ **community development**
- ◆ **health** (e.g. designing and developing sustainable communities), and the
- ◆ **environment** (e.g. sustainable futures and technologies).

This is not an exhaustive list, but outlines the intentions behind the theme, to develop the whole person. In this, the whole person requires attention to issues of health and wellbeing, work-life balance, investigation of the worker-learner, education for lifelong learning.

The approach the ALARA/CIT team wishes to take involves a loose conference format enabling open discussion and working of issues and ideas before, during and after the "event".

Presentations from practitioners in education, community development, health, and environmental science are most welcome. We're also looking to enable new and emerging voices in these fields to actively contribute and we seek expressions of interest from first-time delegates and students studying in the areas mentioned above. The conference will feature the use of networked and online technologies to complement the face-to-face offerings.

ALARA is a non-profit Association whose members practice and/or teach action learning, action research and process design and management.

You can visit the website on www.alara.net.au

For more information contact:

Jeannette Kavanagh Australian Vice President,

jkavanagh@ains.net.au

Stephen Darwin, Centre for Education Excellence, CIT

Stephen.Darwin@cit.act.edu.au

Showcasing success models at the Sustainable Cities Round Tables

By Ferne Edwards, Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab

Are you tired of hearing bad news about climate change? Getting down about the overwhelming changes that need to be made?

We'll don't fret - many Melbournians are already active in the bid to turn the tables on global warming! To pick up your spirits and get inspired to act tune in to the myriad of marvels featured at the Sustainable Cities Round Tables.



The Sustainable Cities Round Tables are regular events that each feature approximately ten speakers with three minute glimpses of what they are doing to create a sustainable Melbourne.

Held as part of the Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab, their talks are diverse in their perspective, topics and approaches whilst also balancing well-known leaders with fresh, local talent. Each presentation is kept-to-time by musicians such as Matt the drummer or Dave the keyboardist who let presenters subtly know when they've reached their time limit! The spritely sessions are followed by workshops designed to engage the entire audience, culminating in lively discussion over drinks. Everyone is welcome at either the live presentations or to tune in online at

www.sustainablemelbourne.com

The Sustainable Cities Round Tables offer more than just talk, providing the audience with an opportunity to network and collaborate with others in sustainability, while providing event sponsors with feedback from the community from workshops at these events.

Visit the website to find out details of the next Sustainable Cities Round Table.



Graduate School, Community Learning & Research Centre

For transformative learning

Post Graduate Program

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in Integrative and Transformative Studies

"Innovative - in content, organisation and methodologies.

Provocative - challenging at every level.

*Engaging - with myself, with others and with the
community. A deep, rich and holistic experience"*

(quote from current participant).

Be part of the most exciting
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Email: info@oases.org.au

*A joint initiative of the Borderlands and
Augustine Communities*

Oases Saturday Breakfasts

See our website for details!

<http://www.oases.org.au>

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

<http://www.oases.org.au>



New Community Quarterly

NCQ is an Australian journal of community development with a history spanning 25 years.

The website (www.newcq.org.au) provides information about the journal,

including subscriptions, contributions and back-issues as well as an archive of all previous publications by issue and subject.

To subscribe, contact Ben Leeman

benleeman@optusnet.com.au

or Call Borderlands: 9819 3239

Borderlands Newsletter

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Martha Hills, David Crawford and others.

Please send articles, letters, etc. to:

borders@borderlands.org.au

Please, also send poetry, creative writing, artwork for inclusion in the newsletter.

Quote of this issue:

"Democracy is not a spectator sport"

Randy Schutt—2001

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Celebration of 30 years of Permaculture

It is 30 years since Bill Mollison and David Holmgren penned their visionary book *Permaculture One*.

To celebrate this milestone Permaculture Melbourne groups will be showcasing their lifestyles for the public over the Spring Equinox, with open properties, information stalls, talks and films. The focus will be on two great examples of Permaculture - one rural and one urban. Both open properties will be supported by stalls, talks, and other Permaculture-related activities.

The Otways feature a stall on Saturday and an event on the day.

PERMACULTURE open DAY

see *sustainability* working in an inspiring garden in Ashburton, 18 Laurel St.

Sunday 21 September 2008

9 am – 5 pm

Entry \$5

- *See* a solar cooker, water harvesting, Petra and Jeff's Permaculture garden with many low-cost sustainability features, vegetable patches, 50 fruit & nut trees, herbs, and a 3-bay compost.
- *Talks* by local permaculturists on rain and grey water use, energy saving and more.
- *Sale* of cheap, home-grown plants and heritage seeds, books & booklets, and some hard to get hardware for sustainability.

The night before—**Saturday 20 August 2008 6.00pm—**
Film Night in the Garden (weather permitting), followed by chats, questions and answers. Entry free, but you have to book for the films. Gold coin for a cuppa.

Featuring a short film *Greening the Desert* by Geoff Lawton: "You can solve any problem in a garden", showing us that you can grow food nearly anywhere and make the land alive again.

Then two halves: Gardening Australia's *Permaculture and Organic Gardening* - making your garden come alive and you happy. And *The Power of Community - How Cuba Overcame Their Overnight Reduction of Oil Supplies* - entertaining and useful for a lower energy future.

12 Laurel Street, Ashburton -
email: ogonyok2002@hotmail.com - or ring 0416 251 317

Southeast Suburbs Permaculture Group:
email PermacultureWorks@gmail.com for more information

For updates and other events, please see

<http://www.permaculturemelbourne.org.au/events.html>

Milyapunginjala Tjukurrpa— Remembering the Tjukurrpa (Dreaming)

2nd Annual **BALGO WOMEN'S LAW CAMP**
3 Days of Turilku/Ceremony & Wangka/Talking

Our Lady's Bore

(15 km south of Balgo. Note: Not at Blue Hill)

Friday 19 to Sunday 21 September 2008

The purpose of this Camp is to teach and to learn Women's Yawulyu/Law Ceremonies. Women attending do so with the understanding that they agree to participate completely in the rituals led by the Kapululangu Women Elders. This will involve having your breasts painted with ochres.

All women welcome: Aboriginal & Kariya/Whitefella. Each Non-Indigenous woman must be paired with one Indigenous woman mentor. Young women aged over 12 years welcome. No boys or babies please. Please bring your own food, water, swags, tents, vehicle & fuel.

This is a closed camp. The Elders ask you to be at the Camp on Friday night and not to leave until the Camp closes at 3pm on Sunday when we will travel together to Balgo. The Elders request no entry to the Camp after Friday night. The Camp ends with a Closing Ceremony on the Balgo Oval on Sunday afternoon which involves the Men's Side. This will finish about 5pm. You are invited to sleep Sunday night at the Kapululangu Women's House on the Balgo Women's Law Ground.

The Elders are inviting women attending from outside the Kutjungka Region to contribute to a "chuck-in" to help cover the costs of the Camp. We suggest individual women donate \$50, organisations \$100 per woman and government departments \$200 per woman. All donations are tax deductible. Please give your donations to our Coordinator.

- ◆ **For more Information or to Register** contact
Zohl dé Ishtar: 0429 422 645 or z.deishtar@uq.edu.au

Avoiding Catastrophic Climate Change

Presentation by Tim Forcey

When: **Sunday August 31, 7:30pm-8:45pm**

Where: Hercus Theatre, Physics Building, University of Melbourne, Parkville (near the corner of Swanston and Elgin Sts)

Cost: Free event

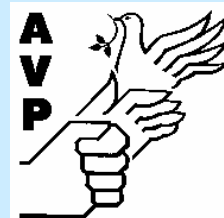
Reservation: Seats are limited. To book yours, contact Shannon on 9439 1012 or flowinglikeariver@gmail.com

Tim Forcey, a chemical engineer in the petrochemical, oil and gas industry, is a passionate volunteer advocate for doing all we can to halt humanity's slide into globally dangerous feedback loops. Tim studied under Al Gore, Nobel Prize winner and creator of the movie 'An Inconvenient Truth'. He also helped organise the 5th July human sign spelling 'climate emergency' in the Alexandra Gardens. He will speak about the past, present and likely future of climate change, and what we can do about it.



ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT
(VIC) Inc
RN A0036095X
ABN 963 1213 7471

*AVP is an organisation of volunteers
offering experiential workshops
that empower individuals
to liberate themselves and others
from the burden of violence.*



C/o 631 Orrong
Road.

Toorak, 3142

BASIC WORKSHOP – Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September 2008.

We invite you to participate in our next community workshop 'Creating Peaceful Pathways' to be held over the weekend of Saturday 9am – 9pm and Sunday 9am – 5pm.

Our hope is to continue to build on the series of inter-community workshops and to ensure that our workshops are relevant to, and respectful of, the range of communities in Victoria.

This Basic Level Workshop will be held at:

St David's Community Centre
160 Nicholson Street, Abbotsford
(right next door to the park)

Cost: \$100- waged; \$50- (or negotiable) unwaged.

Please note that:

- ◆ Participants must commit to attending all workshop sessions.
- ◆ Wear comfortable clothes as workshops involve a number of physical activities.
- ◆ Please alert us to any special food needs or other needs you may have.

St David's is halfway
between Johnson &
Victoria Streets,
so public transport is
either a bus down
Johnson Street,
or a tram down
Victoria Street.

For further information and to obtain a registration form phone: Bev (9569 8684); Lou (5629 8427)



Australia
Peace Brigades International

Applying to become a field volunteer for the Guatemala Project

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is looking for volunteers with a high level of written and fluent spoken Spanish and previous experience of working with PBI; human rights or development NGOs; social, grass roots, or community organisations to join the team in Guatemala.

Specialised training, based on more than 25 years of experience developing international accompaniment methodology. The training covers observation, international accompaniment and the situation in Guatemala and includes individual and group sessions. An experience of living and working in a close-knit team of international volunteers.

Experience volunteering in a recognised international human rights organisation. Expenses covered: All the costs of the journey and stay in Guatemala are covered by the project, (including round trip plane ticket, room, board and health insurance). A \$175 monthly stipend is provided for personal expenses and repatriation is awarded after having completed service.

Information, application forms and instructions about how to participate in the selection process are available by contacting the Training Team PBI – Guatemala on pbivoluntarios@googlemail.com

Next Volunteer training in San Francisco. USA.

PBI is an international NGO that has been promoting nonviolence and protecting human rights since 1981.

The founders of PBI shared a profound conviction that ordinary people can take action to stop war and human rights violations even when their governments cannot or will not.

Our work is based on the principles of non-partisanship and non-interference in the internal affairs of the organisations we accompany.

We believe that lasting transformation of conflicts cannot be imposed from outside, but must be based on the capacity and desires of local people.

Visit: www.peacebrigades.org

Discussion Starter: anti-oppression work

I'm passionate about changing the world – the kind of big change which involves ending division between people. I want us to move past ludicrous notions like it being okay for some people to have way more resources than others, and a greater say about how the world operates. I want us to act with real agency and to have full access to our minds, without the fog of confusing and hurtful messages about ourselves and each other. I think this work starts right now. What would it take to have activist groups and social change organisations which genuinely reflect the diversity in the broader community? To be actively inclusive of difference?

I love activists, and I love how hard we try. But I do notice that we frequently create cultures which are exclusive and alienating. We're not always very welcoming. Our cultures can be self-perpetuating – for example, if we start out as a few white middle class university aged people, that's who we tend to retain as we grow. It can take challenging work to shift this. I'm excited to see people out there making a commitment to anti-oppression practices. This takes courage and results in much learning. More of it, I say!

One of the great ways we learn is through trying bold things, making (big, small, hurtful, embarrassing, silly, damaging) mistakes and reflecting on them. I'd like to make some space for discussion and reflection on our ideas and our mistakes. A risk I see is that practices aimed at challenging oppression can actually be part of perpetuating an exclusive activist culture. Doesn't seem right, does it? But if involvement in a group requires adhering to a set of norms, this privileges those in the group who share those norms, or can do a better job of faking it.

I've noticed that a high consciousness of oppression in a group can look like a lot of very careful people policing each other, without creating an environment that is necessarily more attractive or inclusive for those who are outside the group's majority demographic. A no-shame, no-blame approach helps here – recognising that all people have been impacted by racism, classism, sexism, gender oppression, homophobia, ageism, ableism (etc), and that it would be a miracle if we didn't take on any of this conditioning. It doesn't help us to clean it up by pretending we don't have issues – although, of course we still need to be mindful of not hurting others.

Another useful perspective is 'mainstream and margin' (thanks [Training for Change](#)). Every group has a mainstream and margin, and it often shifts depending on what's going on. The margin is not always how we would think of marginality or oppression in a systemic way. For example in many of the groups the Change Agency facilitates women are in the majority, and men are a margin in the group. The mainstream sets the norms for the group.

I'd love to start discussion around this juicy topic with those of you who are struggling to address this in your work in activist groups. My plan is to include an anti-oppression article or resource, which I've personally found illuminating, in each edition of the tCA enews over following months. Please let me know if you'd like to join me in a small discussion group, to meet each month either face-to-face, over the phone, or on-line. If you've got resources you'd like to add to the mix, the more the merrier. In the meantime, here are some questions to reflect on. If you'd like to email me your feedback, that would be wonderful. Of course, it's important to recognise that many of us can simultaneously fit into both of the two categories below - just to

If you are a member of a 'minority' or oppressed constituency...

- ◆ How do you find it in activist groups?
- ◆ What gets hard?
- ◆ Have you ever stopped or avoided involvement in a group due to cluelessness about diversity / oppression?
- ◆ What makes someone a good ally?
- ◆ If you've felt central, engaged and respected in a group what has made this possible?
- ◆ If this hasn't happened – what do you think it would look like?

If you carry a lot of privilege...

- ◆ How do you find it in activist groups?
- ◆ What gets hard?
- ◆ When have you been pleased with yourself as an ally to others?
- ◆ What have been your biggest mistakes?
- ◆ Have you ever been 'called out' for being oppressive? What was that like?
- ◆ What have you found helpful?

make things even more interesting!

The Augustine Centre is pleased to share with you and your friends an Invitation to a Collective Exhibition

Art Out Loud

Sunday 28th September 7.30pm

This exhibition begins with a collection of artists who work or have an association with The Augustine Centre, Borderlands Cooperative or oases masters course.

It doesn't end there.....



We invite you to interact with the art, spend time with the artists, and bring along your talents and interests. Would you like to read a poem? Share a story? Comment to an audience on how art is making sense to you, juggle, play an instrument, bring a cd or your favorite homemade dish, or share yourself any other way with an audience who love to share, listen and create. You don't have to 'bring something to the table'...you can just enjoy the gifts and sharing of other people and the art pieces already lining the exhibition spaces.

•Already on display and ready for interaction:

Alan Browne	Marina Holland
David Buller	Robert Hoskin
Mish Colla / Maya Ruin	Anne Heath Mennell

Artworks by:

Helen Plesar	Paul Sanders
Elyse Rider	Kate Schanknecht
Eleni Rivers	Lesley Shuttleworth

•Projection of **Grey Skies Blue** civil liberties / protest rights imagery documentary by Guy Harris and music by Guy Harris and Seth Rees.

•Projection of **The Story of Stuff** by Annie Leonard. The Story of Stuff takes you on a provocative tour of our consumer-driven culture—from resource extraction to iPod incineration. Watch this 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of production, consumption, and waste. It'll teach you something. It'll make you laugh. And it just may change the way you look at all your stuff.

•The possibility of mulled wine should entice you further, along with fire twirlers, jugglers, and more.

All held in a beautiful old church hall converted into a gallery, filled with an excellent sound system. Let us know if you want to participate, or just come on the night.

The Augustine Centre

Gallery Space

2 Minona Ave, Hawthorne.

Ph. Mish 9819 3239

www.augustine.org.au

www.borderlands.org.au



ANTaR

**Bayside Group -
Amnesty International Annual Dinner**

This year's annual dinner will focus on the Koorie Court and feature speakers including:

- ◆ Jelena Popovic - Dep. Chief Magistrate & Koorie Court Coordinator
- ◆ Aunty Pam Pedersen - Elder of the Koorie Court
- ◆ Mason Atkinson - Manager of the Koorie Court

**Friday 7.00pm
12th September**

**Sandringham Uniting Church,
14 Sandringham Rd, Sandringham**

Cost \$25 per head
\$20 concession

Please RSVP by September 7 to
Roslyn Fox 9598 5500 or
Robin Rehn 9521 0986.
www.antarvictoria.org.au

ANTaR
67 Brunswick St
Fitzroy VIC 3065
ph (03) 9419 3613
fax (03) 9417 2691



Stillness in Action Retreat

Dates: Mon 22nd Sep— Sun 28th Sept 2008

Venue: Common Ground, Seymour, Vic

Stillness in Action develops wisdom, calmness, courage and clarity to sustain a life of freedom and integrity in troubled times

Youth Lead Three Day Workshop

Dates: Fri 26th Sep— Sun 28th Sept 2008

Venue: Douglass Scrub camp, McLaren Vale South Australia.

Youth LEAD is facilitated by OzGREEN, an independent, not for profit organisation that was established in 1992. OzGREEN enables people to harness their inner wisdom, creativity and intelligence to build pathways to an ecologically sustainable future.

Mobilising for Change Two day Workshop

Dates: Fri 17th Oct— Sat 18th Oct 2008

and Tue 28th Oct—Wed 29th Oct 2008

How can social and environmental justice campaigns mobilise people and strengthen grassroots community organising?

Community organising builds power at the grassroots community level, and invigorates direct and participatory forms of democracy to hold elected representatives and corporations accountable to the communities they serve. Community mobilising is one tool of a community organiser's toolkit and includes rallies, demonstrations, petitions and public meetings.

Community organisers strengthen social movements by building a base of concerned people, mobilising community members to act strategically, developing leadership and creating relationships.

This workshop will extend participants' capacity to:

- Understand community organising, and what makes it different from other approaches to social change
- Critically reflect on campaigns and attempts to mobilise communities
- Build alliances and coalitions
- Practice and apply community organising tools and techniques

The workshop has been developed for people who are actively working on social and environmental justice issues and who seek to mobilise communities to bring about change. It is intended for people who are clear their campaign objectives and who recognise that people power is a necessary step along the way.

Let The Change Agency know if you're interested in participating in or helping to host these workshops.

Further details about these workshop available through www.thechangeagency.org



RMIT Community Advocacy Unit Workshop Series

THE ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

a practical weekend workshop series for community activists



COMMUNICATION KNOW HOW

Date: Saturday 13 September

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm

- Speak confidently and effectively in public
- Manage high-pressure interactions with decision-makers
- Create presentations that educate, inspire and persuade



GRANT SEEKING KNOW HOW

Date: Saturday 20 September

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm

- Find the money from governments, trusts and companies
- Tailor your project to the priorities of a funding body
- Write an effective grant application



LOBBYING KNOW HOW

Date: Saturday 4 October

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm

- Have an impact on the policy making process
- Develop a targeted lobbying strategy to achieve your goals
- Conduct an interview with a member of parliament



MEDIA KNOW HOW

Date: Saturday 11 October

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm

- Plan a media campaign for maximum 'newsworthiness'
- Write a media release that grabs attention
- Give a media interview that gets your message across



VENUE: RMIT City Campus, Swanston Street, Melbourne.

All venues are disability accessible. Full venue details and a campus plan will be provided on confirmation of registration.

COST: \$100 inc GST for four workshops or \$30 inc GST per workshop for members of unfunded community groups. \$240 inc GST for four workshops or \$70 inc GST per workshop for members of funded NGOs.



National Conference
***Critical Pedagogy and Participatory Learning for Social Transformation:
 The Role of Higher Education***

27-28th of November

Organised by Monash University, Borderlands Cooperative, oases Masters Program in Integrative and Transformative Studies and UT Sydney's Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre
At Monash University's Conference Centre in Clayton/Melbourne

The recent resurgence of interest in participatory and dialogic approaches to teaching and learning makes its mark across university, TAFE and other professional development contexts, more specifically in the fields of international development, community development, environmental science, health, social work, education, feminist and women's studies and management and organisational development programs. With ideas of participation, democratisation, transformation, empowerment and social change so central to theory and practice in all of those fields, many educators are trying to put these into practice through classroom teaching and community outreach.

Conference Aims

- Sharing and reflecting** on participatory and transformative teaching-learning experiences, aimed at improving practice
- Promoting** participatory learning, critical pedagogy, popular and transformative education in higher education in Australia and elsewhere
- Developing** networks of educational practitioners and thinkers experienced and active in participatory learning and teaching
- Creating** publications with examples of current thinking and practice

Please submit paper abstracts before: **31 August 2008**

Please submit expressions interest in running a workshop before: **30 September 2008**

Registration and other Information:

See the website for information about invited international speakers and other matters pertaining to location, the pre-conference evening at the Borderlands Cooperative and more: www.arts.monash.edu.au/ges/news-and-events/conf1.php

FEES

University academics: \$180 / TAFE and other institutions of higher learning: \$100



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
**"Social Development and Transition:
 Paths for Global-Local Partnership"**



Organized by the Asia-Pacific Branch of the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD)

Several **sub-themes** include poverty reduction, and post-conflict reconstruction, climate change, disasters, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, etc.

**November 26 (Wednesday)
 28th (Friday), 2008.**

VENUE: Dhulikhel Lodge Resort www.dhulikhellodgeresort.com Kathmandu, Nepal.

Key contact at the host organisation: Dr. Bala Raju Nikku, Ph.D. Head, Department of Social Work, Kadambari Memorial College of Science and Management, The Purbanchal University, Ukti Marg, Thapathali Heights, Kathmandu, Nepal. Ph: 00977-1- 2030346 Email: nikku21@yahoo.com

Partners: Charles Start University, Australia (mpawar@csu.edu.au), Yonsei University, Korea

An invitation to celebrate with oases

We invite you to join us for the annual oases dinner to celebrate our continually emerging engagement with transformative learning.

Saturday 6th September, 7.30pm

The Augustine Centre, 2 Minona Street Hawthorn

\$35/ \$28 (includes 2 course organic meal)

RSVP by 22nd August to info@oases.edu.au
or phone (03) 9819 3502



Please join us for a **Book Launch** right before the oases dinner

“Human and social progress: projects and perspectives”

Cristina Neesham, PhD

Social progress has been defined in modern times in terms of three dominant social projects: the scientific-technological, the economic and the political. This book proposes a dynamic-relational perspective, in which all dimensions of humanness are conceived as inter-limiting and inter-supportive. This model provides an effective critical instrument for safeguarding ideals of human fulfilment against technocratic and reductionist distortions.

Saturday 6th September, 6.00pm

The Augustine Centre, 2 Minona Street, Hawthorn

info@oases.edu.au

phone (03) 9819 3502



HUMAN RIGHTS OVERBOARD



SEEKING ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA
Linda Briskman Susie Latham Chris Goddard

Scribe is delighted to invite you to celebrate the publication of

HUMAN RIGHTS OVERBOARD

by Linda Briskman, Susie Latham & Chris Goddard

Please join us for a compelling panel discussion with authors Linda Briskman, Susie Latham, and Julian Burnside QC.

Date: Thursday, 18 September 2008

Time: 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm

Venue: Readings, 701 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn

RSVP: events@readings.com.au
or call (03) 9819 1917

The Games Spirit Has Been Killed

I HOPE that the Chinese people enjoy their Olympic Games. But once they are over and everybody has packed up and gone home, I think something should be done to reform the Olympic movement. I suspect that a lot of people are sickened by what the Games have become but are reluctant to speak out lest they be thought to be spoilsports.

What is wrong with the Olympic Games? The short answer is: everything. But one might start with the spirit of the gathering. Sport used to be exactly as the name suggests: a physical activity undertaken in a spirit of play. Deadly serious, cut-throat competition was not what sport was about. Sport was a common activity that brought people together in shared enjoyment. It allowed for human contact and improved the character of those who participated. Sport made for better people — and still does.

The Olympics, alas, have become the antithesis of all this. The rot set in with those fateful politicised Berlin Games, when Hitler used the Olympics in an attempt to prove German superiority. Fortunately, he was thwarted, and the victory of the African-American athlete Jesse Owens was a wonderful poke in the eye for Goebbels. But the seed had been planted, and was cultivated enthusiastically by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Homo sovieticus would show us the advantages of communism by excelling in sport. And we all know where that led: to the hothouse training of children chosen to become athletes, to the flouting of the rules on amateurism, and, of course, to suspicions that some of those well-built Soviet female athletes were not quite what they claimed to be. The Americans entered into this ruinous competition with gusto, and the Olympics became a sort of substitute space race. In the case of the United States, athletes benefited from college scholarships, which allowed professionals to masquerade as amateurs. Other countries resorted to similar devices. Nobody was squeaky clean.

The earlier insistence on amateurism, later dropped from the charter, meant that dishonesty had become written into the very fabric of the Olympic movement. Once professionalism was admitted, then everybody could be open about the fact that they had really been professionals all along and had simply been lying about amateur status. But what then happened was that another form of corruption stepped into the breach. This was to be a corruption much more insidious and powerful than anything seen before, and it came in the form of commercialism.

Commercial sponsorship of athletes is more important in countries where the governments are reluctant to finance sport. We know about the government financial rescue of the Sydney Games, but not all governments provide a cornucopia; the American Government certainly does not. So this means that some athletes will need to attract commercial support if they are to be in a position to devote all their time to training. But if this commercial support is generous — as it often will be — then those athletes are going to have an advantage over those who are less generously supported. Training camps, equipment, physiotherapy and so on can be expensive.

Do we really want to see a competition in which one of the determining factors — if not the determining factor — is going to be how much money has been poured into a particular team? And do we really want a situation, which will surely come, where Olympic teams become effectively owned by multinational corporations? Will athletes then say: "I ran for the company", rather than "I ran for my country"?

Bringing countries into the equation is in itself problematic. I have never understood why sports should be a matter of nationalism, but that is what they have become. Countries feel that they have to compete ruthlessly to get the games, no matter what this is going to cost them. What should be a celebration of individual ability and achievement has become a greedy institution that gobbles up public money and encourages profligacy. Getting the Olympics means one thing for a country: debt and an impoverishing of other funded activities. Which would you rather have: the Olympic Games or a decent set of libraries, concert halls, hospitals?

The Olympics also encourage the very crudest form of loud, boasting, triumphalist nationalism. Individual achievement seems no longer to be the point: it is more a question of how many medals each country has won. But why should athletes compete under national flags? Why not make the Games a competition of individuals, with each country being entitled to enter a certain number of competitors who then run as people, not flag fodder?

Then there is the issue of the sheer damage to the planet that the Olympic Games causes. How much concrete is poured in the name of the modern Olympics? How many tonnes of carbon dioxide dumped in the atmosphere in the pursuit of this vanity? How many poor people moved out of their homes to make way for grandiose stadiums and Olympic hotels?

The uncomfortable fact of the matter is that the Olympic Games are doing lasting and inappropriately major damage to the planet at precisely the time when we should be seeking to do things on a smaller, more modest scale. They encourage rampant commercialism at a time when we should be trying to assert human values rather than the values of giant corporations. They are a disaster in every sense.

The answer? We need at least to reinstate a proper, modest sporting ethos. The Games should be conducted on a small, human scale. Symbols and strutting should be eschewed in favour of the celebration of individual achievement. In short, this monster needs to become human again.

Alexander McCall Smith's latest books are The Unbearable Lightness of Scones (Polygon) and The Comfort of Saturdays (Little, Brown).



1st Saturday of the month 9am

Good company, healthy breakfast and engaging presenters.

Oct 4th: Dr. Jacques Boulet and others

Can we imagine another way of relating?

After thirty years as a 'regular' academic, Jacques became a founding member of Borderlands and of the **oases** Graduate School. He has been teaching in social work, community and international development and social research, areas in which he continues to contribute in the program of Integrative and Transformative Studies. He and other oases participants will share their evolving thinking around our - sometimes desperate - need to develop a different grounding for our understanding and practicing of 'human relationship', one which is less based on the image of market exchange rationality and more on that of the 'gift economy'. Participants will be invited to reflect on and discuss suggestions as to how this might change our understanding of community, family, the research relationship and our relationship with the non-human.



Nov 1st: Dr. Robert Hoskin

The HMAS Sydney', an account of national and personal loss

One of Robert's projects in his Visual Arts Degree was to reflect on his uncle's untimely death aboard the HMAS Sydney by producing a book detailing the story of his life as a ship's painter. Robert not only entered into a family loss but into the confluence of a national loss. Robert will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our stories and how they intersect with national or international events.

Dr. Robert Hoskin is presently undertaking a Visual Arts degree at the Catholic University and also co-facilitates a unit at the OASES graduate school, 'Myth-Mapping' in which the participants explore their personal/family stories against a larger collective canvas.



Nov 29th: Dr. Daniel Schugurensky

Transformative learning and social change

Daniel is program coordinator of the Centre for Transformative Learning in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. OISE has been known for a long time for its work in social justice, international solidarity and so on. OISE undertook work with Paulo Freire after his being exiled from Brazil and Chile in the early seventies and have made themselves a big name in participatory development, action research and community development and the role of education.



New books at the Borderlands Library!!!



- Rejuvenating citizenship : a role for local government**
By David Williamson 320.809 WIL
- We know what you want : how they change your mind.**
By Howard, Martin. 659.101 HOW
- The managed heart : commercialization of human feeling**
By Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 152.4 HOC
- The end of charity : time for social enterprise**
By Frances, Nic; Cuskelly, Maryrose. 338.9 FRA
- A new climate for theology : God, the world, and global warming.**
By McFague, Sallie. 261.88 MCF
- Pagan visions for a sustainable future**
By Ezzy, Douglas; De Angeles, Ly. 299.94 EZZ
- The wheel of engaged Buddhism : a new map of the path**
By Kraft, Kenneth. 294.3 KRA
- Responsible dominion : a Christian approach to sustainable development.**
By Hore-Lacy, Ian. 261.88 HOR
- Nature's due : healing our fragmented culture**
By Goodwin, Brian C. 306.45 GOO
- Cruel and unusual : Bush/Cheney's new world order**
By Miller, Mark Crispin. 973.931 MIL
- The road to martyrs' square: a journey into the world of the suicide bomber.**
By Oliver, Anne Marie; Steinberg, Paul F. 956.940 OLI
- Solomon Islands community development handbook**
By Balou-Wilaon, Patrick; Hoatson, Lesley. 307.142 BAL
- Rapid urban environmental assessment : lessons from cities in the developing world**
By Leitmann, Josef. 363.700 LEI
- We have to talk : healing dialogues between women and men**
By Shem, Samuel; Surrey, Janet L. 306.7 SHE
- Gandhian utopia : its relevance and justification**
By Mammen, P. M. 320.55 MAM
- Cycling : Getting Australia moving : Barriers, facilitators and interventions to get more Australians physically active through cycling**
By Cycling Promotion Fund. 88.347 CYC
- Yes, no minister! : a community action guide to planning processes in Victoria**
By Spielman, Ruth; Jenkins, Diane. 363.705 SPI

Don't forget to have a look at the latest issue of the New Community Quarterly!

Maybe the books aren't new, but they're quality says Martha the Librarian

You can browse, peruse and read these books at the Borderlands Library.



BORDERLANDS COOPERATIVE

MEMBERSHIP, SHAREHOLDERS & SUBSCRIBERS FORM

Please return your completed form to Borderlands Cooperative, PO Box 3079, AUBURN 3123

Use this form to

- Become a member, shareholder or subscriber
- Renew your membership

1. Your details

Name _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Email address _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

2. Membership/Shareholder. The primary activities of Borderlands are to provide consulting services, meeting spaces and to contribute to supporting ecological, social and cultural regeneration and sustainability through collaborative endeavors and critical inquiry.

All members of the Cooperative are required to be active members.

Active membership requires:

- For members payment of annual memberships fees **OR**
- For shareholders
 - ◇ Participate in at least one activity each financial year such as a meeting, or use the space or other resources of the cooperative **AND/OR**
 - ◇ Make a donation to further the activities of the cooperative

I wish to become a member or renew my membership by:

<i>Join</i>	<i>Sept–Nov</i>	<i>\$25/15</i>
	<i>Dec–Feb</i>	<i>\$18/12</i>
	<i>Mar–May</i>	<i>\$12/8</i>
	<i>June–Aug</i>	<i>\$6/4</i>

Payment of membership fee of \$_____ [Note: All memberships are due



for renewal on 1 September. For partial year memberships, see box at right.]

Purchase of _____ share(s) in the Cooperative at \$100 each.

Donation of _____

Total enclosed as cheque or money order _____

I would like to receive the newsletter by email post

(NEW MEMBERS ONLY) I agree to become an active member of the cooperative.

Signature _____ Date _____

Tick here if you **don't** want to receive emails on events or issues.

3. Newsletter only I do not wish to become a member or shareholder but would like to receive the newsletter.

Free by email \$10 by post

For office use only

_____ Receipt number

_____ Database updated

_____ Date filed

Initials _____

Pale Surrender

Ah, those hazy days, drifting by as pale surrender.

I remember the lines around her eyes,
like rail tracks crisscrossing her sagging skin.
When she spoke, it was slowly, dreamily,
and her words floated between us.

I would look at her and see a misty image of warmth,
as though I was snuggled deeply within her womb.
The edges of her lips would gracefully turn upwards,
and those eyes, those eyes would tell me all was well.

We would set our sights towards the water,
a thin vale of white light blanketed our world;
So that water and earth, sky and all things seemed as one,
and we, the blessed we, we swept as part of it all.

Yes, those hazy days, passing us one, one day to the next.

She would lay on her back, the soft sand her mattress,
toes pointed upwards, pink little things directed at the sun.
She fell asleep there, under the charming warmth,
her sleepy breathing encouraged me to feel secure.

Slumber was her friend; she would often visit those
generous arms,
and afterwards tell me of her magical journeys.
At first I wished I could take her soft creased hands
and dive in with her, to float in her dreamworld.

Later, those arms held me close,
and I understood it was a one-person passage.
My dreams were my own, passive and carefree,
mixing daytime and dreaming, wakefulness and sleep.

Those were the hazy days, slumber and warmth,
peace and contentment; hazy, hazy days.

Poetry by Maya Ruin

GET INVOLVED

Borderlands is home to many and diverse organisations. If you have time on your hands, an interest in local or international community development, the environment,



PO BOX 3079 Auburn VIC 3123
Ph: 03-9819 3239 fax: 03-9819 3439

To participate in the anti-oppression discussion group, or as I prefer to call it, the Liberation Book Club,

get in touch with me on 0421 508 446 or via holly@thechangeagency.org.

Holly Hammond Subscribe to our monthly enews: www.thechangeagency.org

Saturday Breakfasts
Conversations for Critical Times