

Our vision is that action learning, action research and related processes and approaches, are widely used and publicly shared by individuals and groups creating local and global change for the achievement of a more equitable, just, joyful, productive, peaceful and sustainable society.

ABN: 41 587 420 126

Issue 2, June 2011



***From the President***

The ALARA Management Committee, Publications group, Conference Organising Committee, and many others have been busy over the last few months, and their hard work is coming to fruition.

The Conference Organising Committee has opened bookings for a jam-packed Conference in Brisbane in late September. Early bird bookings close soon, so get in fast – there are a limited number of seats available. See the article in this Newsletter or visit the ALARA website home page to get the link to register.

Members should now have a copy of the first Journal for the Year, brimming at nearly 160 pages, and the electronic first ALARA Monograph is also available on the ALARA website (<http://www.alara.net.au/publications/monograph>).

The new Strategic Plan (see separate article) is now on the ALARA site, and each two months, we will provide an update on progress.

Susan Goff is working with a team of reviewers on over 35 papers for the World Congress Proceedings, while the Management Committee are continuing discussions with potential co-organisers of the 2012 Australasian Conference and the 2013 World Congress.

We have continued our discussions and preparations for a revised ALARA website, but we have hit the expected wall – funding. The Management Committee members are looking at expanding the sources of funding (which is why the recent Journal envelope included an advertisement). Any members who want to advertise their services (quite cheaply) throughout the ALARA community can contact me or any member of the Management Committee. Please

encourage any organisations that may like to sponsor a service provided by ALARA (such as the Conference or the World Congress Proceedings) to contact me.

Finally, I am still looking for volunteers to join us in our work developing ALARA. If you can provide an hour a week (on average) of assistance, I would appreciate having a conversation with you about how you could help the Management Committee grow ALARA and AL / AR across the globe. We have many potential projects, but we need members who can offer the time to turn potentiality into reality.

Colin Bradley  
President  
[president@alara.net.au](mailto:president@alara.net.au)



**ACTION LEARNING AND ACTION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION 2011 AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE**

**Come to Brisbane 26 – 27 September 2011**

**ACTION AND CHANGE: CREATIVE RESPONSES FOR NEW CHALLENGES**

The Action Learning and Action Research Association (ALARA) has a long history of running creative, interactive community building conferences. The 2011 Australasian conference aims for maximum diversity for maximum learning. A community of practice will be formed which will be participative, multi-disciplinary, integrate theory and practice and enable a fun learning experience!

We live in rapidly changing times marked by complexity, uncertainty and anticipation. During such times individuals, organizations and communities can take the opportunity to generate optimistic and future-oriented strategies. Action learning and action research can be highly effective in tackling these complex and “wicked” problems.

The 2011 conference will have international and Australian presenters facilitating participatory sessions. Topics will include leadership and organizational development, Indigenous interests, research into action research and action learning, education and teaching, community development and personal and professional development. Facilitators are practitioners and from government, non-government organizations, business and academics.

Long time, internationally regarded action researcher Bob Dick and up and coming action researcher, Zhanna Kremez are two of the members of the diverse organizing committee for the forthcoming ALARA conference in Brisbane in September.

Bob is well known internationally for his support for action research and action learning through, among many things, his free on-line action research training program AREOL: Action Research and Evaluation On Line.

Zhanna is a teacher at Griffith University and involved in international sales and training. As a newer and younger member of ALARA she brings an emphasis on the needs and interests of a new generation of action researchers.

Bob says “The ALARA Australasian conference will provide an opportunity for processes to integrate theory and practice.” For Zhanna this means that ALARA helps her to “continuously learn and improve her practice.”

The conference will use both large scale and small scale processes to enable participants to enhance their action learning, action research and evaluation capabilities through opportunities for learning by doing, feedback, reflection and networking.

Bob says “The conference this year will start with a large scale inclusive, participatory experience to connect all participants to each other. It is envisaged this will create a supportive culture where newcomer

action researchers can trial their ideas for participation and learning and get feedback from more experienced action researchers”.

As Zhanna says, “I attended the ALARA World Congress in Melbourne in 2010 where there was a community who shared common values and beliefs in collaboration. It was a forum where I could share ideas without being judged, and receive valuable feedback which enabled me to learn and improve my practice. We aim to recreate that opportunity at the 2011 Australasian conference in Brisbane. ”

More information on the conference and registration is at [www.alara.net.au](http://www.alara.net.au) There are discounts for early bird registration, closing 18 July 2011.

Come and join a diverse international group of professional, highly-effective and supportive facilitators. Question, grow and learn to enhance your practice.



### **ALARA Strategic Plan**

Following a two-month period for member input, the Management Committee has approved the new Strategic Plan for 2011 – 2014. We invite all members to view the Plan, which is available at <http://www.alara.net.au/Strategic+Plan>.



### **Membership Renewal**

Yes, it is that time of year for the annual renewal of membership. Please make sure you renew or you will miss the great discount for the Australasian Conference, and you will not get the next Journal, and you will miss the contact with the ALARA community, and ...

It is also a great time to convince your colleagues to join ALARA. Your President provides a challenge for all ALARA members – how many new members can you encourage to join us? ALARA predominantly survives on the funds raised from membership annual subscriptions. Please help ALARA increase its community, so that it can continue the great work it has been performing for over twenty years.



### **Hello Sand Gropers! ALARA reconnects with Australia's WEST!!!**

Michael Wright is a Yuat Nyungar Aboriginal man from Western Australia. His family is from the Moora and New Norcia region. He completed a PhD at the School of Public Health, Curtin University and his research explored the experiences of care giving for Aboriginal people in the context of serious mental illness. He is an NHMRC Research Fellow based at

the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and is leading a research project entitled *Looking Forward* that is focused on urban-based Aboriginal families who are affected by serious mental illness. The project engages service users, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal service providers, policy makers and managers. A Participatory Action Research (PAR) process is being used in the project. An example has been the ongoing review of the information gathered at community forums and taking action on what people say and then reporting back to the community and agencies working in the sector about what is happening with the project.

Since stepping down as ALARA Publications Coordinator and *ALARj* Managing Editor in late 2010, Marg O'Connell has returned to her home state of WA after almost a decade on the east coast and is currently on maternity leave with bub number two! She is however, keen to connect with fellow PAR/AL practitioners based in WA and the Perth area in particular. While based in Canberra most recently, Marg co-project managed a three-year implementation of an online learning environment. The project used action research and action learning principles to guide the project management team and the large multidisciplinary project team, and ensure active and participative consultation with, and engagement by, all stakeholders. The project is a unique implementation combining three electronic systems to create one seamless learning environment for staff and learners. Marg has a particular interest in education design for e-learning.

Marg and Michael wish to connect with other WA practitioners to share research experiences, discuss PAR and AL and their associated practices and challenges! If you are interested to get in touch, please email either Marg at [margoconnell@gmail.com](mailto:margoconnell@gmail.com) or Michael at [michaelw@ichr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:michaelw@ichr.uwa.edu.au). We'd love to hear from you!



**Group Contacts... If you want to get together with other action researchers and action learners – contact someone and do lunch (or skype)!**



**Melbourne ALARA Network contact details:** **Jill Sanguinetti**, [Jill.Sanguinetti@vu.edu.au](mailto:Jill.Sanguinetti@vu.edu.au); **Bill Genat**, [bgenat@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:bgenat@unimelb.edu.au)

**Sydney ALARA network contact details:** **Susan Goff**, [susan.g@cultureshift.com.au](mailto:susan.g@cultureshift.com.au)

**Cairns ALARA network contact details:** **Robyn Lynne**, [secretary@alara.com.au](mailto:secretary@alara.com.au); **Michelle Redman-MacClaren**, [michelle.maclaren@jcu.edu.au](mailto:michelle.maclaren@jcu.edu.au)

**Brisbane ALARA contact details:** **Pam Kruse**, [pamela.kruse@bigpond.com](mailto:pamela.kruse@bigpond.com)

**Perth ALARA contact details:** **Margaret O'Connell**, [margoconnell@gmail.com](mailto:margoconnell@gmail.com)

**Adelaide ALARA contact details:** **Janet Kelly**, [janet.kelly@flinders.edu.au](mailto:janet.kelly@flinders.edu.au)

**Indigenous Action Research and Action Learning contact:** **Michael Wright**, [michaelw@ichr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:michaelw@ichr.uwa.edu.au)

**Asia Pacific Action Research and Action Learning contact:** **Amoy Ong**, [aymong@aol.com](mailto:aymong@aol.com)

**UK and Europe Action Research and Action Learning contact:** **Marian Naidoo**, [marian@naidoo.org.uk](mailto:marian@naidoo.org.uk)

We thank everyone who agreed to make themselves available as a friendly face for practitioners near and far.

If you want to add your name to this Group Contact list please let [editor@alara.net.au](mailto:editor@alara.net.au) know!



**Journal News**

The Second Special Edition of the ALARA Journal, *Decolonising Action Research*, is moving into final stages of publication.

Our two Guest Editors, Dr Bronwyn Fredericks and Dr Karen Adams have established a review panel of Indigenous scholars to review papers. The esteemed members of this panel are:

Mat Jakobi, Michael Wright, Shannon Faulkhead, Riripeti Reedy, Adrienne Ormond, Francis Wyld, Karen McPhail-Bell, Bronwyn Fredericks and Karen Adams.

The participants on this panel generously reviewed the thirteen papers we received, along with our ALARj panel members. The pairing of different review processes across culturally attuned approaches to writing, reviewing and publication was an exciting innovation for our publication practices. Most significant was the commitment to respect for each writer's contribution and their wellbeing in how the review process was handled. One person commented:

*"Can you please thank the two anonymous reviewers for their time in making some great comments on my paper?"*

*The reviewers' comments have really made me look hard at the paper, and I believe I can make it a lot better - by drawing on their recommendations."*

We thank our Guest Editors, Guest Review Panel members and our stalwart ALARj panel members for their very significant contribution to the writers and to this publication.

Ten papers have been resubmitted for consideration in the journal. We are publishing electronically as well as in hard copy for this edition as well as the next two.

An electronic publication capacity has the advantages of:

- No restriction on numbers of papers
- Including a wide range of media in the way we write about AR and AL
- Global exposure for our writers as the electronic journal will be listed on an academic database

Our hard copy version will require the loss of several articles, and selection of those that are best suited for hard copy (no mixed media, suitable for our membership audience).

The removal of the ERA standards for publication has also changed the way we think about our publications. Update here ... [http://arc.gov.au/era/era\\_2012/improvements\\_for\\_ERA\\_2012.htm](http://arc.gov.au/era/era_2012/improvements_for_ERA_2012.htm). As we have focussed on developing a specialisation for many years, are fully engaged in multi-disciplinary research – we are in good standing. We will find out more when the review publishes its guidelines.

We always welcome news of your projects, studies and publications. Send articles for the ALARA Newsletter to [editor@alara.net.au](mailto:editor@alara.net.au)



**World Congress Publication**

We have been delighted with the response to our invitation to publish papers from the World Congress.

Thank you to everyone who put the time into getting their papers to us.

We have received 36 submissions, each being given a double blind review. The Publications Groups is grateful to Colin Bradley for his assistance in locating and inviting contributors.

Our panel is made up of a wonderful group of people – those who played leading roles with the World Congress and our ALARj reviewers: Budd Hall, Shankar Sankarin, Janet McIntyre, Riripeti Reedy, Alan Rayner, Bronwyn Fredericks, Karen Adams, Marian Naidoo, Jack Whitehead, Maya Cordeiro, Fernando Wagner, Ian Hughes, Phil Crane, June Lennie, Patta Scott-Viliers, Rob Nabben, Amoy Ong, Janet Kelly, Margaret O'Connell, Paul Aylward and Susan Goff.

We are reviewing papers to the end of July, and will then engage the publisher, ISCE Publishing, with the resulting manuscript. We are still hoping to launch at the Brisbane conference.



ALARA's contact details are:

PO Box 1748

Toowong

Queensland

4066, Australia

Phone: +61 7 40582268

Email: [secretary@alara.net.au](mailto:secretary@alara.net.au)

## ALARA Management Committee 2010-2011

Name	Position	Contact No	Email
ALARA Inc		PO Box 1748 TOOWONG QLD 4077 AUSTRALIA	<a href="http://www.alara.net.au">www.alara.net.au</a>
Donna Alleman	Administration Coordinator	+61 (0)7 3342 1668 +61 (0) 412 153 548	<a href="mailto:finance@alara.net.au">finance@alara.net.au</a>
Robyn Lynn	Minute Secretary	+61 (0)7 4058 2268	<a href="mailto:secretary@alara.net.au">secretary@alara.net.au</a>
Colin Bradley	President	+61 (0) 421 478 670	<a href="mailto:president@alara.net.au">president@alara.net.au</a>
Pamela Kruse	Constitutional Secretary	+61 (0)7 3354 2878 (H) +61 (0)7 3234 0349 (W) +61 (0) 402 195 090	<a href="mailto:pamela_kruse@health.qld.gov.au">pamela_kruse@health.qld.gov.au</a>
John Molineux	Treasurer	+61 (0) 417 483 332	<a href="mailto:treasurer@alara.net.au">treasurer@alara.net.au</a>
Vacant	Publications Coordinator		
Vacant	Membership and Marketing Coordinator		
Jose Ramos	International Vice President		<a href="mailto:jose@actionforesight.net">jose@actionforesight.net</a>
Ross Colliver	Web Services Coordinator	+61 (0) 411 226 519 +61 (0) 3 9078 1108	<a href="mailto:ross.colliver@bigpond.com">ross.colliver@bigpond.com</a>
Claudia Gillberg	Streams Co-ordinator	+46 (0) 470 70 80 15 (W) +46 (0) 733 44 11 69 (Mob)	<a href="mailto:claudia.gillberg@lnu.se">claudia.gillberg@lnu.se</a>
Vicki Vaartjes	National Vice President	+61 (0) 413 047 852 (Australian mobile on roaming – so OK to use) +667 22187 (home) +667 23042 (work) +667 7496536 (m)	<a href="mailto:vicki@leadingtolearn.com.au">vicki@leadingtolearn.com.au</a>

Outgoing			
Susan Goff	Immediate Past President	+61 (0)2 8012 8969 (W) +61 (0) 409 139 634	<a href="mailto:susan.g@cultureshift.com.au">susan.g@cultureshift.com.au</a>
Margaret O'Connell	Immediate Past Publications Co-ordinator	+61 (M) +61 (0) 402 672 889	<a href="mailto:margoconnell@gmail.com">margoconnell@gmail.com</a>
Jacques Boulet	Immediate Past International President Vice	+61 (0) 3 9819 3239	<a href="mailto:jacques@borderlands.org.au">jacques@borderlands.org.au</a>

Final