



ABN: 41 587 420 126

*Our vision is that action learning, action research & 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*

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## **Issue 2, June 2009**

Dear Members,

This newsletter brings good news about the interesting and important ways our members contribute to a growing interest about ALARA through their publications, workshops and conferences. Keep up to date with our National Conference progress report and email me any items you would like included in the next newsletter.

Margaret Fletcher  
Email: [m.fletcher@griffith.edu.au](mailto:m.fletcher@griffith.edu.au)  
[admin@alara.net.au](mailto:admin@alara.net.au)



### **President's welcome**

Greetings everyone

We are half way through '09 and it's time to get back in touch with you all again through our newsletter (thank you Margaret F for all your hard work!).

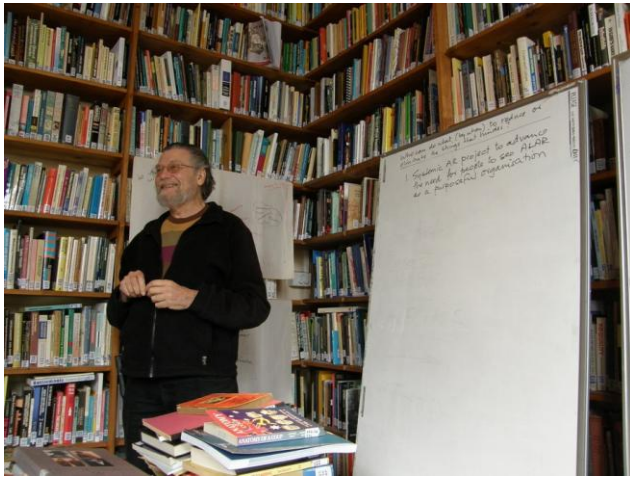
Perhaps my most needed message is to encourage you to get your **membership** renewed. The fee is the usual rate as we are still setting up the constitutional change that we advertised in our last newsletter.

We are getting ever closer to reconnecting at our **Australian National Conference**, which Jeanette and all the members of the Conference Organising Group in Melbourne have been putting together. Thank you to each and all in this group for the many hours of voluntary contributions you are giving. It is promising to be a wonderful opportunity to revitalise our working

relationships and practices in consideration of the times we are living through.

The **10th World Congress Organising Group** is now officially in business with the Memorandum of Understanding signed (on the web), and the organising group securing venue and dates. May I express my appreciation to the Borderlands/oases Co-operative Board for becoming our formal Congress partner – and to Rob Nabben for formally representing the co-op's Board in the agreement. Our thanks to Jacques too, who so patiently knits the many interests together that will hold the Congress for us all to grow through and to the many Life Members who agreed to provide advice to the Organising Group and bring the depth of ALARA Congress history to its service. Jacques is heading off for another 6-week world trip to spread news of the Congress and make personal contact with the many networks in the UK, the USA and elsewhere. In his absence project staff at Borderlands and ALARA will progress the project milestones.

**Our Management Committee** met in Melbourne early May, with Bob Dick, Bel Stafford and Colin Bradley also contributing (thank you to you all). We scanned the AL and AR "field" in '09, analysed force field energies and discussed how ALARA can play a more strategic role in AR and AL in Australia and internationally. We will open up these discussions at the National Conference so we can include your thinking. A key question is the meaning of "membership": do we join to be a member of a network of like minds, and/or can we also consider membership as a contribution to an organization with a more proactive purpose, consistent with our constitution?



**Bob Dick working with the Management Committee at Borderlands, Victoria**

Lastly, the **Business Plan** has been finalised and is now operational. The MC Working Group is meeting monthly to progress your '07-8 visioning at an operational level. That is, we are sustaining core functions with your assistance, and making them work to achieve your vision. For example, we have set up a new web page for public bookings of our local workshop events so that our members can deliver our offerings to other members and the public. We hope to create an Australian “events calendar” as a first step, promoting you and our AL AR practices to the larger community - as you indicated you were interested to do in the vision report.

There is more news about publications, local regions and members’ stories – enjoy them all – and I look forward to seeing you in September in Melbourne.

Dr Susan Goff



***Report on Management Committee meeting in Melbourne***

The ALARA Management Committee meets face to face once a year. We use frequent flier points and billeting to keep costs negligible. We look forward to putting new names to new faces and reconnecting with those we know. We are establishing a tradition of meeting in the location that the Australian National Conference will take place so we can see the venue and meet anyone with whom we may need to shake hands. This year we met at lovely Borderlands ([www.borderlands.org.au](http://www.borderlands.org.au)) in Hawthorne,

Melbourne where the National Conference and the pre conference workshops will take place.

We began our day with a scan of the AL and AR field in Australia. Our mind map notes that “changes are beginning to happen - different ways of knowing, how do we communicate across the different ways? We don’t want AR to become mechanistic – slave science– [some] government bodies are ticking the AR boxes but don’t know what AR is about or how it works - people are changing the way they are thinking – less linear – AR has to have the reflective capability to set up the conversations and support different ways of knowing – connection”.

We are noticing many more AR and AL projects and programs coming into the mainstream, and we are also aware that in many instances and any sector we are still experiencing resistance to emergent, principle-based and systemic approaches.

What do these changes mean for us as members, and ALARA’s role in support of our development?

We talked about “gentle connections” in conversations between government and community; the need to ask questions about the “big picture” – to use the AR data to look beyond the surface of things even considering the “bunking down” tendencies of being in the midst of the global financial and ecological melt down. We want to see ALARA play a role in organising a “generative social structure” that is complementary to hierarchy. We want to do this within ALARA as a sub-system of the big picture – and beyond.

But is this what our members and their networks want – and if so, how can we all participate in such a direction?

We identified 11 factors that hinder the growth of ALARA and voted on them. The top 4 in order were:

- The need for ALARA to be seen as a **purposeful organisation** as well as a network of colleagues
- The problem with **dislocated conversation** and the need for meaningful transaction (between members)
- A sense of **silence and tension** throughout the network which we were not sure existed– we just don’t hear from members

- The need to **model our own principles** – working the difficulties of hierarchy embedded in the management structure and the more congruent interest in working collaboratively

We also talked about what we can do to limit the strength of these hindrances:

- Establish an ALARA (internal) **systemic action research** project to explore and transform the nature of the organisation and its management structure
- Explore our **values** at the conference and work with members to operationalise them
- That we (MC members) each keep a 2 week **diary** noting what we do as ALARA work and see if we can work more collaboratively and efficiently, with less hierarchy and better communication
- Try to build more than one **local network** per region, with one person volunteering to be in contact with the rest of the organisation through the web page about local events and changes

Everyone reported on their various strategies and it was evident that progress with the vision report is taking place. A follow-up round of everyone's feelings about the meeting indicated that it had been most worthwhile to form those connections through gentle conversation so we can move forward together.



**Margaret O'Connell (Publications Coordinator) and John Molineux (Treasurer) at the Management Committee meeting at Borderlands**

Thank you to our Melbourne members who offered so generously to billet the inter-state members and to Borderlands for hosting the day. A full report of the meeting is available on the website on the action plan link on the members' home page - <http://www.alara.net.au/node/1154> (thank you Tony Ip).

Susan Goff



**Promoting ALARA's members and increasing our revenue flows**

At the AGM last year, members charged the Management Committee with solving our financial and human resource sustainability issue. We have responded to your request in the following ways:

- Opened up a **new class of membership** (ex-officio) to allow people (often young people) to contribute to ALARA voluntarily without having to pay membership fees (as they do not identify with the organisation but are interested in its activities)
- Taken the **vision report** into a strategic plan and then on into a business plan with the significant support of Colin Bradley – the report is uploaded, and its items are now being actioned and reported on a monthly basis. You can view our **business plan** on the web site's SIG page at <http://www.alara.net.au/activities/sigs>
- Moved to increase **membership fees**, which have not been increased for 10 years – while also keeping very low rates for low-income people (see Pam's item in this newsletter)
- Located the next **World Congress** in Australia
- Set up a **new web page** for marketing and handling bookings for public, income earning events. Visit the test site at <http://events.alara.net.au/>. The link will be used in all marketing materials, and electronic fee transactions will make life much easier for Donna, our Administrator
- Secured our conferences, congresses and local events with **legal agreements** to reduce the risk of expensive misunderstandings
- Trialled local **workshops** in NSW with volunteer project management (thank you Bel) and scaled fees to see if we can set up ALARA events in regions to attract fee

paying participation beyond our membership (so far, so good) – and increase our income.

Our next step is to progress the idea that was discussed in the vision report: promoting our members as facilitators of learning about AL and AR and related approaches throughout our national and international networks.

Before we invest time in working the business argument for this development we want to know if you are able to follow through in the interest in this idea that indicated in the member survey last year (58% of those interviewed were interested). *If you are located in Australia and interested in opportunities to set up fee paying interactive events that would be aligned with our constitution we want to hear from you.* Once we have a group of interested people - we hope from all walks of the ALARA life - we will set up a teleconference and talk through the practicalities and outcomes.

If you want to know more – link to <http://www.alara.net.au/node/1596> and enter your details – we will look at what we have at the end of July and get back to you.

We look forward to meeting you there  
Business Planning Group



**Reminder re special Meeting to make changes to our constitution**

The Management Committee is proposing three changes in our constitution. To make constitutional changes we need to have a special meeting so members can vote. We cannot do this electronically, to take into account our international members, without a constitutional change! So we will be having this meeting at the AGM at this year's Australian National Conference.

The changes are about:

- a) Our name change (ALARA) which while agreed by the members is not yet formally recognized in the constitution,
- b) Removing the necessity of having a general meeting to make changes to fees, and
- c) Adding three new classes of membership: organizational, affiliate (for un-constituted networks of likeminded people) and ex-officio to offer complementary membership to volunteers

who contribute significantly to us but who do not identify with ALARA  
d) Voting electronically

Pam Kruse [Pamela.kruse@bigpond.com](mailto:Pamela.kruse@bigpond.com)



**World Congress Update**

Date claimer:

Pre congress workshops and meetings etc  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> -Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September

World Congress- Monday 6<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2010

Venue confirmed is Donkeywheel, Melbourne which is just across the street from Southern Cross train station with direct tram, train, bus-to-airport connections.

Contact details: Jacques Boulet

Vice-President International

03 9819 3239

[jacques.boulet@oases.edu.au](mailto:jacques.boulet@oases.edu.au)



**Australian National Conference update**

Update from Jeannette Kavanagh

Conference convenor

ALAR National Conference

The Australian National Conference September 18 and 19 2009 – Melbourne

Living Differently: Action researching through the ecological and economic meltdown

Please send your proposals for conference presentations NOW! By 'presentations', I'm including catalyst papers where you succinctly outline the main themes you want to explore and as the term suggests, those themes act as a catalyst to a group discussion. We look forward also to receiving your proposal for theatre presentations and roundtable discussions. I'm also referring to more traditional or formal papers.

For those papers the 350-400 word abstract needs to reach us ASAP. Some members might want to have their papers published in our journal. In the case of published papers and the related referee process, we will need to receive an abstract of your proposed paper by June 12, and your final paper by July 12. We'll be able to let you know very quickly after June 12 whether or not the proposed paper is accepted. Once accepted, the actual refereeing process will not

be finalised until mid to late July. I do realise that some of you need to plan your attendance at the conference on the basis of submitting a publishable paper and I apologise that our timelines may make that difficult. Contact me if that's the case. I'm sure you appreciate that we're all doing our best.

Early Bird registrations: opens July 20 and closes on August 21 2009. Other **registrations will close on September 4 2009.**

Dr Jeannette Kavanagh  
National Vice President  
[jkavanagh@ains.net.au](mailto:jkavanagh@ains.net.au) or through the ALARA website

<http://www.alara.net.au/2009Conference>



**Conference- MAKING LINKS 2009**

Sustaining Communities in Tough Times  
17 - 18 November 2009 University of Melbourne  
<http://www.makinglinks.org.au/>

Call for papers

Two major challenges face the world today: the global economic crisis and environmental sustainability. Both are already having an impact on peoples' lives and livelihoods. Community organisations have already expressed concern that the most vulnerable in our societies will be hardest hit.

Community organisations also face the challenge of keeping their operations going in tough financial times, and at the same time trying to be part of the environmental solution, rather than part of the problem.

Making Links Conference 2009 asks: how are non-profit organisations meeting these twin challenges?

We invite you to present a paper on your learning and experiences with ICT, your projects, case studies or research, or lead a practical workshop that introduces useful tools and concepts. The structure of the conference will be based on:

- Case studies
  - Practical workshops
  - Panel discussions
  - Networking opportunities
  - Film festival
  - Social and satellite events
- Submit a proposal online at

<http://www.makinglinks.org.au/papers.shtml>

Registrations open 10 June.

To keep in touch, sign up for Making Links updates at <http://www.makinglinks.org.au/> and join our Facebook group to find out what's going on, contribute ideas, etc., at:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7075421142>

Dr Marcus Foth  
[m.foth@qut.edu.au](mailto:m.foth@qut.edu.au)  
<http://www.urbaninformatics.net/>



Notice of new **peer-reviewed journal** on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. For details see:

<http://www.partnershipsjournal.org/index.php/part>



**Visit our website today and keep up to date with ALARA events at [www.alara.net.au](http://www.alara.net.au)**

**WHO ARE WE?** Read the report for a picture of membership- demographics, skills, employment, and feedback on ALARA communications, website.

See: <http://www.alara.net.au/public/home> and download the report at the bottom of the page.

Ross Colliver  
Website Coordinator  
0411 226519 [colliver@ttdg.com.au](mailto:colliver@ttdg.com.au)



**ALARA Special Interest Groups - SIGs**

- Current SIGs are:
- Business Plan SIG
  - Action Research and Post Graduate Research
  - Action Learning, Action Research Training

Further details under Activities on the ALARA website. Do you have an idea for a SIG or have you and a few colleagues already set up a group that could be an ALARA SIG? If you would like to facilitate such a SIG, please contact [Ted Sandercock](#) and discuss your proposal.

Ted Sandercock  
SIG Coordinator



**Publications update**

The April edition of ALAR Journal has gone to print- so look out for it in your mail. Congratulations to Margaret O’Connell and her hardworking Publications Group with special thanks to guest editor, Janet McIntyre, from Flinders University in South Australia. The special edition theme is PARTICIPATION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, SUSTAINABILITY AND PEACE.



**MEMBERS’ NEWS AND LOCAL EVENTS**

**Brisbane, QLD**

Creating a learning-based evaluation culture in development organizations- presented by June Lennie

18 Jun 2009 - Time: 5.30pm-8pm Venue: Moreno Collegium Coorparoo Brisbane Queensland Australia Cost: \$20 includes light finger food and drinks

**Cairns, QLD Meeting**

The local contacts are Robyn Lynn ([robyn.lynn@jcu.edu.au](mailto:robyn.lynn@jcu.edu.au) ) and Michelle MacLaren ([michelle.maclaren@jcu.edu.au](mailto:michelle.maclaren@jcu.edu.au) )

**NSW Network events**

ALARA News South Wales organized an interesting interactive workshop by NZ action researcher, Jen Margaret at the University of Technology Sydney on Tuesday 12th May. There were sixteen participants most of them non-members of ALARA. The event was organised in partnership with The Change Agency <http://www.thechangeagency.org/> (see item in this newsletter). Jen introduced several useful resources at the workshop from the Facilitating in Action for Social Change initiative (FLASC) <http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/idsproject/facilitating-learning-and-action-for-social-change> and got the participants to work together on some thought provoking questions to increase their awareness to take an active part in social change. Jen also explained her work with the Maori people in New Zealand at Aotearoa to help them with their quest for self-determination.

Another NSW event is planned with Deb Fernando (from the Sax institute) exploring cross-cultural research practices from the Indigenous/non-Indigenous perspective at a date and venue to be confirmed. Watch ALAR website for details.

Contact [shankar.sankaran@uts.edu.au](mailto:shankar.sankaran@uts.edu.au)

**Canberra network**

A workshop introducing Action Learning and Action Research is in the early planning stages for October '09. Stay tuned Canberra members!



**News from Ortrun Zuber-Skerritt (Founding member & Life member)**

Ortrun has been busy writing and will be presenting workshops internationally as follows:

**Book publications**

Zuber-Skerritt, O. and Associates (2009) *Action Learning and Action Research: Songlines Through Interviews*. Sense Publishers, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. To be released in June 2009 and launched at the ALARA National Conference in Melbourne (available at a discount price for participants).

She has just received a contract for her next book:

Zuber-Skerritt, O. (2010) *Professional and Leadership Development Through Action Learning and Action Research*. Springer International, Netherlands.

Seminars/workshops (June to September 2009)

**University of Innsbruck, Austria, 15–20 June:** Qualitative Research Methods in the Social and Economic Sciences, intensive 2SU course for PhD Students.

**Hochschule Kufstein** (University of Applied Sciences, Kufstein), Austria, 24-27 June: *Excellence in university education*, Academic Staff Development Program for HSK faculty staff.

**Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Pretoria, South Africa, 24–28 August:** *Leadership development in higher education*, Inaugural lecture for the appointment of

'Professor Extraordinaire' at TUT, followed by a book launch (see 1 above).

*Professional development in higher education using action learning and action research*, one-day workshop for staff of the Higher Education Development and Services (HEDS) Centre at TUT, 24 August.

*Academic writing for publication in the social and related sciences*, two-day workshop for academic staff in the human, social, educational and health sciences at TUT, 25–26 August.

*Postgraduate research training and supervision*, two-day workshop for academic staff at TUT, 27–28 August.

**University of Pretoria**, South Africa, 31 August – 4 September

*Combining research and development in higher education*, one-day workshop for academic staff developers in 'Education Innovation' at UP, 31 August.

*Academic writing for publication in the social and related sciences*, two-day workshop for academic staff in the human, social and health sciences at UP, 1–2 September.

Developing and supervising qualitative research and thesis writing in the social and related sciences, two-day workshop for UP academic staff, 3–4 September.



**Notes from Dr June Lennie (Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane):**

*Learnings from the Perspectives on Impact Evaluation: Approaches to Assessing Development Effectiveness International Conference*

I took part in the *Perspectives on Impact Evaluation* conference in Cairo, Egypt from 29 March until 2 April this year. This very interesting conference was attended by around 700 people from around the world, working in various development sectors and capacities. While some advocated the use of randomised control trials to prove impacts, others argue that impact evaluations should be used to facilitate capacity building and improve programs in ways that help to better meet development goals. Presentations were given by several leading international evaluation experts.

Some of the latest ideas and methods that I learned about were highly relevant to a research project I'm currently working on, entitled

*Assessing Communication for Social Change (AC4SC): A New Agenda in Impact Assessment*. This project is developing and evaluating a participatory impact assessment methodology for assessing the social change impacts of community radio programs in Nepal. Our research team at QUT and the University of Adelaide is working on this project in collaboration with Equal Access – Nepal (EAN), Equal Access – International, local stakeholders and listeners, and a network of community researchers. My colleague Bikash Koirala from EAN and I presented a paper on this project at the conference which was well received.

Many of the themes and issues raised in the conference echoed those which we are attempting to address in the AC4SC project, including the need:

- to address the many challenges and issues related to the concept of Constituency Voice, particularly those related to knowledge, power relations and structural barriers to participation;
- to improve the quality of the evidence collected and the rigour of our methods, given that data reliability remains a challenge;
- to embed our impact evaluations in robust monitoring and evaluation systems to enable real-time improvements and longer-term assessments of impact;
- for clear theories of change to test the assumptions underlying our programs, to enable dialogue about our programs with those most affected, assess how well a program is working, and to help explain why a program has worked or otherwise.

Many speakers advocated the use of multi-disciplinary frameworks in which we learn from each other, along with culturally appropriate, ethical, mixed methods approaches that take the complexity of the context into account. Comparison, theory of change and triangulation were seen as key elements of effective impact evaluations. While there was debate on the most appropriate and effective methods to use, the more important conversation was seen by some as being about values and voices, rather than methods.

**Robert Chambers** (Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex) commented on the 'methodological explosion' in participatory methods but noted that most methods are

unrecorded and remain marginal in academic terms. Innovations in this area are mainly coming from the South. He argued that participatory methods open us up to learning and being in touch with the community in ways that other methods don't allow. Methods such as community mapping and diagrams involve a great deal of interaction between people and cross checking, which increases their rigour. Another strength is that you can quantify what is normally qualitative data.

**Sanjeev Khagram** (Harvard Business School and iScale) discussed the implications for methods, data collection and reporting of how development and development effectiveness is defined in the context of complex globalization. He argued that the way we frame and define development determines and helps to guide choices of appropriate methods, data collection and reporting. Sanjeev suggested that while 'effectiveness' is one value, other important values include empowerment, sustainability, legitimacy, equity and poverty alleviation. Papers and other materials from this conference can be accessed at <http://www.impactevaluation2009.org/home>. A call to action agenda on Impact Evaluation for Improving Development can be found at <http://www.keystoneaccountability.org/node/242>



### **About the Change Agency**

The Change Agency Education and Training Institute Incorporated is an incorporated association, charitable educational institution, and independent activist education initiative. The Change Agency aims to strengthen effective community and workplace action for social, ecological and economic justice by providing facilitation, workshops, resources, research and other learning opportunities.

The Change Agency has an ongoing action research project on the climate change movement, focused on questions such as: 'What kind of social movement will be necessary to bring about a climate-conscious society and avoid further dangerous climate change? What will it take to create that movement?' The project has been through a number of cycles, and the findings so far can be viewed at: [http://www.thechangeagency.org/01\\_cms/detail\\_s.asp?ID=73](http://www.thechangeagency.org/01_cms/detail_s.asp?ID=73)

**The Change Agency** is facilitating a growing community of practice around activist and social movement education. In 2009 we are offering the most intensive workshops ever held on activist education in Australia – the Social Movement Ed<sup>2</sup> at Commonground in Victoria. The Social Movement Ed<sup>2</sup> (Ed-squared, or educate-the-educator) program is made up of two workshops:

*Social Movement Educator's Workshop*, Friday 18 – Sunday 20 September. An initial 2.5 day workshop for educators and facilitators who work in a range of social movements and have varied levels of experience and expertise.

*Advanced Social Movement Educator's Workshop*, Monday 21 – Friday 25 September. A subsequent 4.5 day workshop intensive for experienced educators and facilitators. Further information about the Social Movement Ed<sup>2</sup> can be found at [http://www.thechangeagency.org/02\\_cal/details.asp?ID=135&varPeriod=1](http://www.thechangeagency.org/02_cal/details.asp?ID=135&varPeriod=1)

**The Change Agency** receives no government funding or philanthropic support, and we are currently seeking donations, funding support, and project partners to continue our work. To find out more and to access a wide range of training resources, visit our online clearinghouse at <http://www.thechangeagency.org>, and subscribe to our monthly email bulletin. Contact Holly Hammond, [holly@thechangeagency.org](mailto:holly@thechangeagency.org) or 0421 508 446.



### **Facilitating learning in action for social change (FLASC)**

What have you learnt through your work for social change?  
How has this learning informed your practice?

An issue we are faced with in social change contexts is that although knowledge is being generated continually, little attention is given to the ways in which this knowledge contributes to further change. There is a need to create more effective learning environments in which all who engage in change processes develop capability to access, create and share knowledge and to

engage critically with that which is already known and recorded.

Facilitating Learning in Action for Social Change (FLASC), an initiative led by the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, responds to this issue. FLASC aims to increase the effectiveness of social change work through exploring ways to support learning within and across different social change contexts.

If you are interested in participating in the FLASC discussion then you can do so by joining the FLASC wiki. The wiki is a space where ideas and resources, generated by and for practitioners, can be discussed and shared. The wiki is underdevelopment and your input is encouraged.

Visit [www.flasc.pbworks.com](http://www.flasc.pbworks.com) or contact FLASC Core Group member, Jen Margaret email: [jen.margaret@clear.net.nz](mailto:jen.margaret@clear.net.nz).



**Book releases**

**Action Research and New Media. Concepts, Methods and Cases (Hampton Press, 2009)**  
**Retail price: \$67.50 US**

*Authors:* Greg Hearn, Jo Tacchi and Marcus Foth (Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane) and June Lennie

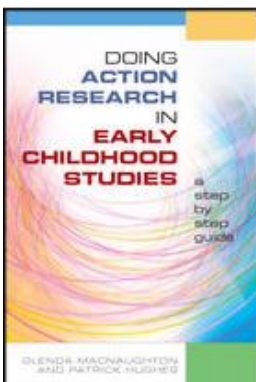
In this new book, we argue that action research is especially appropriate in new media research, where innovation and change are continual, and where processes and outcomes are usually not predictable and often involve fuzzy and subjective human elements. Our book offers a systematic, in-depth academic overview of the application of action research methods to the field of new media. It is the first publication of its kind in what is a new but rapidly growing field and represents the culmination of many years of work applying action research to new media projects by the authors.

We demonstrate the numerous ways in which new media can be used as an integral, innovative and effective component of action research projects for purposes such as networking and collaboration, and developing creative content. Action research is positioned as a methodology, a meta-process for managing inquiry, and a research culture that can result in

ongoing change and improvements to new media initiatives in ways that better meet the diverse needs and goals of organisations, community members and others.

The first section of the book describes the underlying principles, processes, questions, methods, and tools that are relevant to an action research approach to new media inquiry. This is followed by a deeper explanation of three advanced, innovative approaches to action research and new media: ethnographic, network, and anticipatory action research. The final section presents four case studies of the application of action research in different new media contexts:

- Alleviating Poverty through ICTs in South and Southeast Asia
- Creative Engagement through Local Content Creation
- A Community Portal for Residents in an Inner-City Development
- Evaluating New Media in Rural and Outback Areas.



Throughout this book we show how action research can overcome many of the problems inherent in using traditional methodologies for media and communication research by producing continuous learning, insight and actionable knowledge.

<http://www.hamptonpress.com>  
<http://eprints.gut.edu.au/14077/>



**Doing Action Research in Early Childhood Studies: A step-by-step guide**  
**Glenda MacNaughton & Patrick Hughes**

This book introduces and evaluates different approaches to action research and explores how they can be applied in early childhood settings to create positive change and to improve practice.

Using varied illustrations and case studies of contemporary projects in diverse early childhood contexts, the book addresses specific issues and challenges that you might face when conducting action research in such settings. Each chapter offers gentle guidance and support at a specific stage of the research

process, from choosing your initial topic to formulating your research question, through to sharing the lessons of your project.

The book's key features include:

16 'Steps' that walk you through the process of conducting your action research project

References to real life research projects to illustrate key ideas, themes, practices and debates

Advice on creating an action research journal, with sample extracts

'Thinking Boxes' in each chapter to encourage you to review and reflect on the chapter's contents as you plan your research project

Checklists in each chapter of key concepts, processes and themes, together with further resources

The authors explore some difficult issues associated with action research, including ethics, rigour, validity, critical reflection, and social and professional change. They show that there is more than one 'right' way to perform an action research project and advise you how to choose an approach that is appropriate for your particular interests and circumstances.



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**ALARA Management Committee, 2008-2009**

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