



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

Issue 1, April, 2010

Dear Members,

Enjoy the first of our 2010 newsletters- jam packed with ALARA events.

Margaret Fletcher

Email: m.fletcher@griffith.edu.au

admin@alara.net.au



President's message

Greetings to all our members and best wishes to you for the new-year which has speedily become not so new.

I would like to let you know about the face-to-face Management Committee meeting which was at Borderlands in early March this year.

1. Succession

Several of the Executive of the Management Committee are standing down this year making new nominations for the positions open to members. Standing down are:

- Susan Goff -President
- Jacques Boulet - Vice President International
- Jeanette Kavanagh - Vice President Australia

All other members of the Management Committee are re-standing. Those who are standing down do so to make room for new leadership; they offer their ongoing support to incoming members of the committee. They would consider serving in other roles, should members so choose.

2. The World Congress

With the participation of our Borderlands Co-op partners we carried out a review of the World Congress Memorandum of Understanding, assisted by Yoland Wadsworth. We improved the Memorandum to make our partnership even stronger, and to get ready for the event itself. The review endorsed the release of more budgeted seed

funding to support the Congress Plan's implementation.

We thank Yoland for assisting us, and Rob Nabben (Borderlands Co-op Director), Jacques Boulet and Mish Colla from Borderlands for giving so generously of their time to this event and for offering to ALARA the venue for the meeting.

3. Extending ALARAJ's reach

News was warmly received that Marg O'Connell has succeeded in having the ALARA journal accepted by INFORMIT, a database run out of Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. If we go ahead with this arrangement our writers will be given a global audience for their work, and ALARA will enjoy a new income stream.

4. Our finances

We reviewed our financial situation, which is at a low ebb being the end of ALARA's financial year, and the time for membership renewals. We have a strong Congress budget, which we hope will increase seed funding for future World Congresses.

5. Membership renewals

We encourage you as our member to renew your membership and to consider the offer of half price membership if you register for the World Congress. If you do take up this option, you will not need a membership registration form - your Congress registration will be treated as a membership renewal.

6. Life member awards

We will be inviting members to nominate a life membership award this year, with the circulation of the nomination forms through our email network. As in previous years, the Committee gives awards within the Life Members policy terms (see <http://www.alara.net.au/about/governance>). The whole Committee decides the award by a unanimous decision.

This year, should a determination be made, the award will be given at the World Congress dinner. We invite members to consider nominations that

include members whose work has been beyond Australian borders.

In closing, may I also encourage you to participate actively in promoting the Congress to your professional colleagues? The Early Bird registration program that accompanies this newsletter is a great opportunity for a truly rewarding conversation with colleagues. The on line dialogues associated with each of the streams are just beginning – so when you talk about the Congress with your colleagues you may also like to introduce them to:

The conversation about the need for critical thinking in activist and campaigning work at the Social Ecology stream <http://www.alara.net.au/node/1805>

Systemic action research approaches in the health and well being stream <http://www.alara.net.au/HealthandWellBeing>

The idea of “cognitive imperialism” the decolonisation stream <http://www.alara.net.au/DecolonisingPractice>

There are also on line discussions for AR and AL in systems thinking and practices, education and learning, and international and community development on their way.

Many thanks again to Margaret Fletcher and all contributors for making the newsletter as brimming with energy as it has become.

Susan Goff



ALARA World Congress 6-9 September, 2010 Melbourne

News from the ALARA World Congress Organising Committee

From Vice President International Jacques Boulet:

Hi everyone...!

We just have managed to get our exciting ALARA World Congress Program into the world – Meg and Mish sent of about 1,500 emails plus attachments! Electronic copies are available for download from the ALARA website, and a printed copy will soon be sent to all ALARA members with your first 2010 edition of ALARj. It would be really great if all of you/us could assist in spreading the news far and wide and urge people to come and attend the Congress. We want it to be a qualitative and quantitative success both for the sake of PAR, AR and AL and for our organisation.

As you will already have been made aware of, we have a rather awesome foursome of keynote speakers who will each address one of the four major themes we have build into our suggestions for reflection before and during the Congress. The reactions to the program which we have received for

several months now have been uniformly very positive; people seem to like the thematic orientations, the invitation to ‘*look back so as to better move forward*’ and we have found dedicated Chairpersons for the six praxis ‘Streams’. Dialogue within these ‘Streams’ has just started to happen in the virtual (on ALARA web page) and ‘real’ spaces’ created to evolve the thematic and practical/organisational discussion long before the start of the Congress in September.

The Organising Committee at its last meetings has started to organise itself for the myriad tasks and processes which need to be initiated between now and early September. One of these tasks concerns the organisation of pre- and post-Congress workshops and learning opportunities – which Australian Vice President Jeanette Kavanagh is managing. More news about these as well as about many other aspects of the Congress will come to you all very soon!

We have already received almost twenty early submissions for workshops and presentations and the geographical spread is quite astounding: Sweden, the US, the UK, the Netherlands, Austria, Vietnam, Thailand, India, New Zealand, Taiwan, Malaysia and, of course, Australia... Not bad, we think and that’s just those who needed early acceptance so as to find financial and institutional support for their participation and travel.

We would like to see local ALARA members offering billeting opportunities for overseas participants; a strong Australian dollar, the lingering economic crisis and the tyranny of distance may make the trip rather expensive for many potential overseas participants; so if there are opportunities for billeting visitors in Melbourne during the Congress – and if you would like to come to know interesting people and learn a thing or two! – do let us know at alara@borderlands.org.au and we’ll organise things from there!

Please let us know what you think about the program and give us suggestions about any aspects; we’ll consider anything and will add it to our own efforts to make this an event to remember...

Jacques Boulet, ALARA Vice-President International and Convener World Congress Organising Committee.

Early Bird call for registration for the ALARA World Congress.

**World Congress Information and Early Bird
registration now open at**

<http://events.alara.net.au/>

Contact details: Jacques Boulet

Vice-President International

03 9819 3239

jacques.boulet@oases.edu.au

Members are encouraged to direct recipients of their emails to the ALARA events booking site, which will make registration very easy for people here and overseas. The link is <http://events.alara.net.au/> - it provides all the information a person needs to book either electronically or by other means



From ALARA World Congress Project Officer - Vikki Uhlmann

I was one of the founding members of ALARPM, as it was known in 1990, and I have recently returned to more active action research practice. As a project officer with ALARA, currently working on the World Congress, my job is to bring to life the aspirations of Keynotes and Stream Chairs with regard to the development of AL and PAR.

Our first activated stream is the Systems Stream, chaired by Danny Burns from the SOLAR Centre, University of West England, and we are taking an action research approach to its development. Danny and members of the Australian and New Zealand Systems Network have agreed on an initial topic of discussion, "Systemic action research applies across a range of fields and situations. What are the implications of scale, time, static versus dynamic systems, and context for the structure of action research? How do you work with power across systems?"

A virtual Stream has now been established on the ALARA website (<http://www.alara.net.au/node/1800>) which is open for all our members. Our next question is "How do we make this discussion work for everyone?" Other members of the Systems group are now joining the discussion and we will try to add their observations about its effectiveness to our own practices and pass our reflections on to the next stream to become activated. At the World Congress in September, these virtual streams will take on a reality born of much dialogue conducted across the virtual networks of the world.

See you there!

Dr Vikki Uhlmann

Vikki can be contacted through the ALARA Administrator, Donna Alleman at admin@alara.net.au



From Australian Vice President Jeanette Kavanagh:

Pre-Congress workshops will be held on the weekend of September 4th and 5th. A pre-Congress program will be released about June. Congress – September 2010.

We are most grateful to our Australian Vice President, Jeanette Kavanagh for managing the pre-

Congress workshop program. If you intend to send a pre-Congress workshop proposal to the organisers and have not already send one in to Borderlands, please send your pre-Congress workshop proposal to admin@alara.net.au attention: Jeanette Kavanagh by **April 23rd**.

Please send a proposal that identifies:

- Title
- 150 words describing content, area of application and process
- Audience experience with AL/or AR (entry level or advanced for example)
- Contact details
- IT needs



Call for Billeting Hosts

The 8th ALARA World Congress will be a spectacular Participatory Action Research and Action Learning 4 day event held on 6 – 9th September 2010, with pre-congress days filled with insightful and participatory workshops.

Presenters and participants will be coming from all over the world and many beds are needed for those who would like a more 'local' experience of Melbourne. If you are able to host one or more people, please email the ALARA World Congress Organising Committee with the subject line 'Billeting Host' at alara@borderlands.org.au. We will then email you a form to fill out in order to match your household with a World Congress guest.

In anticipation, we thank you for offering to billet participants of the ALARA 2010 World Congress.

Your generosity has assisted people to participate in this reflective, engaging and active event.



From Web Co-ordinator Ross Colliver:

Join discussion in the World Congress Streams of Praxis

For each Stream of Praxis, we are creating discussion groups inside the ALARA site. You will find them here <http://www.alara.net.au/worldcongress/2010/objectives>

You are invited to join. Here is how.

From the members home page <http://www.alara.net.au/members/home> go to the LH (left hand) nav bar, open <Members Groups>, and scroll down to the group you want. If there is a <join> option on the right, you can join right away. Otherwise, open the group and <Join>.

If you are already a member of a group, you may well see the group under <My groups> in the RH (right hand) nav bar. But if drupal, the site software, is cantankerous, you may not. Go to the **LH** nav bar,

open <Members Groups>, and scroll down to the group you want. Open it.

In a discussion group, you can:

1) <comment> on a topic. With the topic open, and all the previous comments visible, just scroll to the bottom of the page and add your comment.

2) <reply> to another person's comment. This lets that person (and others) know you are responding to what they have said. Your reply will be indented below their comment.

Make sure that after <preview> of your comment, you then <submit> it. Otherwise it will be lost!!

You enter your comment in an editing box. Notice the editing options at the foot of the editing box. In general, leave the formatting as it appears in the editing box - it is small in the editing box, but will be a larger font when you see it displayed on the web page.

If you are writing a long comment, consider writing it in a program like Word, where you are familiar with editing controls, and then importing this text into the comment box. To import without all the Word formatting, choose the small "W" icon from the toolbar at the bottom of the editing box and insert in the special text box that appears. Preview and submit.

To import text from any other source, I strongly suggest using the icon with a "T." This will strip out any superfluous line breaks, so your text fits nicely on the page. For example, I find that even pasting text from another comment on the ALARA site will leave line breaks in awkward places, so I always use the "T" icon to insert text from another location.

If you want to change the text of your comment after you have submitted it, go to the comment and select the <edit> tab.

Preview and submit

At the bottom of the comment form, 1. **Preview** the text you just wrote, 2. **Submit** the topic. **You must <submit> the entry for it to appear.**

Ross Colliver, ALARA Web Services.
0411 226519

Visit our website today and keep up to date with ALARA events at www.alara.net.au



From Publications Co-ordinator Marg O'Connell

ALARA Publications Alert from Eileen Piggot-Irvine

Monograph Series Request!

Hello everyone.

It's time to showcase some of the wonderful work that your students, colleagues or yourself might have

sitting on the computer that is over the word limit for journals but would make an excellent monograph.

The monographs are fully peer reviewed so we are looking for quality.

Purpose

The purpose of the monograph series is to provide an opportunity for authors to publish quality refereed work that is more extensive than the length of a conventional paper. This should enable an author to present in depth information and analysis with a topic.

The monograph case studies will contribute to theoretical and practical understanding of action research and action learning in applied settings.

The monographs are targeted at a broad range audience including practitioners, academics, researchers, leaders, community workers, students etc. A key emphasis is on the fact that the monographs will be formally refereed and only quality case studies will be published. In this situation, quality refers to evidence of rigorous data collection, strong theoretical underpinning, deep reflection on results, and professionally written using APA guidelines.

Content

Topics from any context of action research are considered. Types of case studies might include (but are not limited to):

- Completed cases, successful and unsuccessful;
- Partial successes and failures;
- Work in progress;
- Within a single monograph, multiple case studies which illustrate important issues; and
- Problematic issues in current cases.

Typical monographs would include rationale, background, a topic literature review, research methodology and methods, ethical considerations, action research phases and findings, interventions, discussion of findings and their implications, references and appendices. They should contribute new knowledge.

A title page, table of contents (including figures and tables), an abstract of approximately 500 words, up to ten key search words and an executive summary should precede the monograph. Total length should range from 8,000 to 16,000 words. Gender and culture free language is required. APA referencing is to be used.

Monographs must be original and unpublished work suitable for an international audience and not under review by any other publisher or journal. ALARA will hold joint copyright on all published monographs, with the author(s). No payment is associated with monographs.

Please see the full requirements via the ALARA website at

<http://www.alara.net.au/publications/monograph>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest wishes,

Eileen Piggot-Irvine

Email: epiggotirvine@unitec.ac.nz



Publications

Submissions to **ALARj** are taken at any time. If you have a submission please send to alar@alara.net.au. ALARA publication information and submission guidelines can be found at

<http://www.alara.net.au/publications>

Misprinted article in ALARj Oct 2009 (Vol 15, No 2)

Dear ALARA members and *ALARj* subscribers,

Please note that the article titled "Tensions in Action Research", by Kim Polistina and Sevasti-Melissa Nolas, recently published in the Oct 2009 edition of *ALARj* (Vol 15, No 2) will be reprinted in the April 2010 edition of *ALARj* in its final version, due to the article being misprinted. You are advised to revise any reference to this article to that printed in the April 2010 edition. I sincerely apologise for any confusion this may cause.

Marg O'Connell

ALARj Managing Editor

Action Learning, Action Research Assoc. Inc.



General Notices

Conference date claimer:

"Celebrating story: bringing people and work to life".
Venue: Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne, on October 8 and 9.

Conference organiser: Andrew Rixon . For details see:

<http://www.babelfishgroup.com/files/CelebratingStoryConference.pdf>

Bob Dick facilitated workshops

Bob Dick is an independent scholar, an occasional academic, and a keen consultant and facilitator. More a generalist than a specialist, he has over thirty years experience in community and organisational change. His core methodologies in this are the more participative forms of action learning and action research

Organisational resilience 4-5 May (with Brian Donaldson)

Venue: Riverglenn Conference Centre

alara.net.au

5

The fee is \$880 (\$770 early bird)

Date claimers for future workshops:

Foundations of facilitation 5-6 June

Advanced facilitation 21-22 August

Action learning 21-22 October

For details see:

<http://www.bobdick.com.au/>

Dr Michael Marquardt 1 day Action Learning workshops - SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, BRISBANE

AITD is pleased to announce the return of Action Learning practitioner Dr Michael Marquardt. Find out why and how organisations adopt the Action Learning process for problem solving, leadership development, building teams and to evolve into true learning organisations.

SYDNEY 13 May 2010

<http://aitd.com.au/CampaignProcess.aspx?A=Link&VID=1080927&KID=78117&LID=271479&O=http%3a%2f%2faitd.com.au%2fAnnouncementRetrieve.aspx%3fID%3d30493>

MELBOURNE 14 May 2010

<http://aitd.com.au/CampaignProcess.aspx?A=Link&VID=1080927&KID=78117&LID=271480&O=http%3a%2f%2faitd.com.au%2fAnnouncementRetrieve.aspx%3fID%3d30495>

BRISBANE 17 May 2010

<http://aitd.com.au/CampaignProcess.aspx?A=Link&VID=1080927&KID=78117&LID=271481&O=http%3a%2f%2faitd.com.au%2fAnnouncementRetrieve.aspx%3fID%3d30496>

Reminder- Positive Schools Conference & A Day With Jane Elliott, 20th and 21st May 2010

Venue- The Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, WA

www.positiveschools.com.au

Email info@positiveschools.com.au

Show Me The Change – 2-day conference, Melbourne, May 2010

Complexity & the Art of Evaluation

May 4-5, conference, May 6 post conference workshops. For more information and bookings visit

www.showmethechange.net.au

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's 11th conference "Creating the Future We Want to Be: Transformation through Partnerships," 12-15, 2010 in Portland, Oregon!

Register today at

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Invitation.aspx?>

e=8525920f-f0f8-43e9-b1e4-89dec9feaecc

The conference, promises to be CCPH's best yet as hundreds of community and campus partners convene for 4 days of skill-building, networking and agenda-setting! Whether you are new to community-based participatory research, service-learning or community-campus partnerships and looking for basics to get started, or you've been involved for years and seeking more advanced knowledge and connections, this is one conference you will not want to miss!

Features this year include:

* Diverse participants who share a commitment to social justice and a passion for the power of partnerships to transform communities and academe.

* A stellar line-up of pre-conference workshops covering such topics as CBPR ethics, service-learning, NIH funding for CBPR, publishing diverse products of community-engaged scholarship and participatory policy analysis:
<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf10-preconf.html>

* Inspiring keynotes by Elder Atum Azzahir, Executive Director of the Powderhorn Phillips Cultural Wellness Center in Minneapolis who works to "unleash the power of citizens to heal themselves and build community" and, Camara Jones, Research Director on Social Determinants of Health and Equity at CDC whose work focuses on the impact of racism on health:

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf10-program.html#KeynoteSpeakers>

* Skill-building workshops, educational exhibits, site visits of exemplary community-campus partnerships, and many opportunities for informal networking:

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf10-program.html>

* Opportunities to meet with staff from funding agencies that include the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Northwest Health Foundation:
<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf10-cosponsor.html>

* A one-year individual premium membership in CCPH with your conference registration (if you're not yet a CCPH member; and discounted registration rates if you are!):
<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/members.html>

* Many cosponsoring and exhibiting opportunities - see: <http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf10-exhibiting.html>

REGISTER TODAY!

To register, visit

<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Invitation.aspx?e=8525920f-f0f8-43e9-b1e4-89dec9feaecc>

Advance online registration closes on April 30. We look forward to seeing you in Portland in May!

The CCPH Conference Planning Committee

<http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf10-overview.html#PlanningComm>



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