

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND NEWSLETTER

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Contribute to the newsletter

If you have an article, book review, something of interest to facilitators in your region or an upcoming training programme that you would like to include in the newsletter please contact Stephen Thorpe
secretary@iaf-world.org

AFN/IAF Conference 2007

Adelaide, South Australia, November 28-30

Only weeks to go until the opening of the 10th Anniversary AFN Conference Adelaide November 28-30, 2007 celebrating our past, present and future in the world of facilitation with the theme of ***The Next Chapter: Showcasing the purpose of facilitation.***

Still time to [register](#) and be there! The Adelaide AFN Conference is one of the suite of global IAF Conferences. **IAF members receive the early-bird price.**

See www.afnconference.com.au >>> for details.

Conference location is beautiful downtown Adelaide, South Australia on the North Terrace boulevard, a few minutes walk from the river and parklands.

Highlights of the Conference

A great line-up of [pre-conference workshops](#) on Wednesday, 28th November:

- 1) *Facilitators as Purposeful Peacemakers.....a decade for discernment.* By Brendan McKeague
- 2) *Deep Democracy: Holding the space for experiential interconnectedness.* By Dr. Ro Beaumont
- 3) *The Art of Facilitation: Experiencing co-operacy and purposeful facilitation.* By Dale Hunter and Stephen Thorpe

Opening night "taste of champagne" celebration and chalkboard concert

Meet, greet, network, enjoy at the Opening Night Wednesday 28 November, 2007 "taste of champagne" celebration and chalkboard concert beginning 5 p.m. which as the concert team writes "the essence of the concert is to enjoy and celebrate the creativity, laughter and beauty" that exists within us.

Concurrent workshops, November 29-30

There has been a high standard of response from presenters for concurrent workshops. The program will offer quality learning opportunities for all facilitators from introductory to advanced.

Conference Dinner, Thursday evening, November 29th

At the Sebel Playford next door to the Conference venue: The dance will feature a great local South Australian band "Little Black Dress": A band of 5 passionate musos from the nearby Barossa Valley. Read more on the Conference web-site!

Time to vision together about the future of facilitation in the world and in our region and being the best of what we can be and opportunities to gather as **Birds of a feather**. Learn, grow, enjoy, experience the nurture of being with facilitators from across Australia, New Zealand and Oceania region, and across the globe.

[Register today](#) to be there!

Best regards,

AFN Conference coordinating team: Joan Firkins, Jennifer Repper, John Squires, Taryn Baker, Monica Redden, Kirstie Murphy
In collaboration with regional IAF representatives Stephen Thorpe, Tom Schwarz, and Keith Ryall.



Regional Update

Comments from Tom Schwarz

Continuing my Regional/Global updates...

Some folks from the AFN (Adelaide conference conveners Joan and Jennifer) and the ANZ IAF reps (Tom, Keith and Stephen) recently got their heads together virtually to dialogue around the relationship between the AFN and the IAF - and how this might translate into supporting a super Adelaide conference.

This is in anticipation of the Adelaide conference past/future visioning planned by the Joan and Jennifer.

Here are some worthwhile nuggets from that dialogue...

Major Concern: The dialogue surfaced a concern ('stars and stripes covered elephant in the room) – a nebulous fear/anxiety perception around the IAF being US-centric and the fear of domination by the IAF.

What was clarified around this was - the IAF was indeed founded as a North America undertaking – from the ICA – and local members – notably Kevin Balm, Dale Hunter, Bob Dick, Glen Ocre and others were part of that undertaking. The vast majority of IAF members were at that time from the North Americas.

- not long after that the local ANZ formed the AFN (from a prior Facilitators network) , with Bob Dick, Kevin Balm, Dale Hunter and others – and in 2001 chose to be (formally) affiliated with the IAF.

So now fast forward to today –

- the AFN is a vibrant organic self-organising local entity – a richly sharing community of practice of over 500 members.
- the IAF had morphed and paradigm shifted – it now has around 50% of it's membership from outside the North Americas, and most of the growth is coming from Europe and Asia (we have over 60 members here in ANZ).

AND the IAF is inverting it's operating paradigm so that it is now a service entity TO THE REGIONS

- the Regional Reps ARE the IAF Board (along with other necessary functions).
- We can thank immediate past VP International Dale Hunter for helping drive this new direction through tireless efforts over her multiple years on the IAF Board.

Values/intents: It seems as if we (IAF/AFN er's) ALL hold pretty similar core values.

- with the AFN-IAF 'divide' really being about organizational settings along a continuum within one spectrum that is Facilitation, and
- the common aspiration to bring about change for the positive with people/organizations/society/ourselves.
(the IAF's multi year project to define it's and Facilitators core values and ethics had amongst it's key drivers AFN locals Dale Hunter, Joan Firkin among others).

The difference between AFN and IAF when teased out appeared to be reflecting poles along this continuum ranging from the very organic/unstructured/self-organising/local (AFN) to highly structured, clear processes and global (IAF) organization – with local facilitators dynamically moving between and holding their own comfort places on this continuum.

Some of the current tensions and perceptions appear to arise from holding BOTH poles as valid modes of working/living around common core values. So Rather than it being an either/or choice - it's in fact an AND paradigm."

So moving forward to the great treat in-store at AdelaideWe'd like to invite all those attending the Adelaide AFN to join us at various BoF (Birds of a Feather) sessions the conveners are planning – to continue the dialogues – suggested topics range around ..

- * The IAF & Q&A
- * CPF and certification & Q&A (hear from the Sydney Jan'07 CPF'ers)
- * Mentoring programs for Facilitators
- * what else would be helpful to our AFN community?

Go well, Tom



Change that unfriendly IAF-world.org login and password

Web site tip of the month - Stephen Thorpe

Did you know that you can change your login and password for accessing the member sections of the [IAF-world.org](http://www.iaf-world.org) website?

For years I've found it frustrating having to search for my member number every time I wanted to access the member sections of the IAF website. I could never remember the number. Sometimes I'd just put in the too hard category and give up. Recently I've found a rather simple solution - **change my login and password**.

To do this for yourself go to www.iaf-world.org and login. Then go to **Edit My Profile**. Six links across at the top click on the **Login** link. In this screen you can change your login and password to something you will be able to use!



Comments from our members

What is important to Grace Leotta of Gladesville, NSW in her membership of the IAF

What is important about membership of the IAF is being a part of a community of facilitators & all that brings – informal networking, formal/structured events – conference, Certificate, resources – on the web, professional standing. I belong to a few professional organisations – what I really appreciate about IAF & the people who are part of it are the principles/values – focus on the group of people with whom we work, a real respect for the knowledge/wisdom of the group, a belief in the ownership of the process and decisions made by the group, a focus on the process of facilitation, the facilitator role in serving the interests of the group; these resonate with my community development values (where I began my working life) – participation, empowerment, justice...

NZ government includes IAF Competencies & Code of Ethics in Online Participation Guide By Stephen Thorpe

IAF Secretary Stephen Thorpe has recently been working with the New Zealand government's [State Services Commission](#) on a project to bring more citizen participation into NZ government via computing and internet means. The government has a 20 year goal to transform engagement between government and citizens by using online participation and engagement tools as part of its E-Government strategy.

Part of reaching this goal has involved the development of a *Guide to Online Participation* to help the New Zealand government and its agencies with guidance and best practice when using electronic channels to engage with citizens.

The editors of the guide have also included the [IAF Facilitator Competencies](#) and the [IAF Code of Ethics for Group Facilitators](#) within the guide. Stephen assisted with describing the role of the group facilitator and some of the benefits and drawbacks of using different types of tools from an online facilitator's perspective.

The Guide has recently been released and is now being tested in implementation with online government projects. The *Guide to Online Participation* is now available online - [click here >>>](#).



Dr. Roger Schwarz & Associates and The Skilled Facilitator Approach in Sydney 2-day facilitation training workshop coming up in Sydney

Roger and his colleague Matt Beane are returning downunder to offer a 2-day workshop on the **Skilled Facilitator Approach** on 13-14 December in Sydney.

Join Roger Schwarz and Matt Beane in this workshop to learn and apply the key principles and techniques of the Skilled Facilitator approach. This session will reflect the new conceptual framework that will be part of Roger's forthcoming book. You will be amongst the first to learn this new material. Matt's presence and the two-day length will allow you to explore concepts in depth, via personalized practice on your real work issues, challenges and opportunities.

For more details visit the Evolve website - [click here>>>](#)



Other facilitation training opportunities in our region

ToP (ICA's network) in Sydney: Modules 1 to 3 of the ToP Facilitative Leadership Program 10-12 December and 6-8 February. For details contact tom.schwarz@kinnogene.com.au .

Module 1 of the ToP Facilitative Leadership Program in Taupo, New Zealand 14-16 November. For details contact rush.m@xtra.co.nz .

Action Research workshops with Bob Dick, in Brisbane: Conflict management 1- 2 March, Foundations of Facilitation 24-25 May, Advanced Facilitation 2-3 August, Action learning 23-24 October. For details contact bdick@scu.edu.au .

An **Open Space** on Open Space in Melbourne: (that's exploring Open Space in Open Space) 7-8 December. For details contact viv@thereef.com.au .

Zenergy The Art of Facilitation in Auckland 10-14 March, Wellington 14-18 April. Online Facilitation Skills 21 April-15 June. For details contact zenergy@xtra.co.nz.

The Groupwork Institute of Australia in Melbourne: Introduction to Facilitation 13-14 May, Advanced Group Facilitation starts 15 April. For details contact enq@groupwork.com.au .

For further facilitation training opportunities see the IAF [calendar >>>](#) or the [training directory >>>](#).

Advertise in the IAF Group Facilitation: A Research and Applications Journal

Opportunities are available to advertise in the IAF Journal.

All advertisements are full-page and located in either the back pages of the issue or on covers. All advertisements except the back cover are black and white. Advertising is limited to 10% of the total number of pages.

Rates are as follows:

\$300 inside page
\$400 inside cover
\$500 back cover
\$600 back cover, 2 color

Readership

The journal reaches ~1500 IAF members in 62 countries via a downloadable pdf document. Hard copies are available via Amazon.com and Virtualbookworm.com. The journal is also listed on the EBSCO and ProQuest online databases.

Contact Stephen Thorpe to book your advert today - secretary@iaf-world.org



IAF Journal now available in hard copy

Order your copy today

Issue #7 of the **IAF Group Facilitation: A Research and Applications Journal** is now available in hard copy from [Virtual Bookworm](http://VirtualBookworm) and Amazon.com for US\$14.95 (+ Postage). The next issue #8 is due out this Decemeber. Current and back issues of the journal may be downloaded in PDF format by IAF members at no charge - [click here >>>](#).

IAF Outreach - Facilitators Without Borders

Update from Mary Sue McCarthy

The IAF Community Outreach Committee has developed a *Facilitators Without Borders* initiative to make a positive difference by increasing the capacity of IAF members to provide neutral, self-sustaining facilitation for communities, and around public issues initiatives, and societal needs. For more details contact: community@iaf-world.org .

IAF Africa Conference 23 – 24 July 2008

The BIG FIVE of facilitation in Jo'burg, South Africa

This conference is going to be a highlight and landmark in the history of the facilitation profession in Africa. The conference will be hosting the first ever IAF facilitator certification event pre-conference. A Call for Papers is currently open for submission. See the conference website for more details - [click here >>>](#).

Join The IAF-ANZ Leadership Team

Promote facilitation in your area

We meet monthly (via Skype) and together tackle many ideas and initiatives to promote the art and practice of facilitation in our region. To share your ideas or to find out what is going on, please contact:

Tom Schwarz: tom.schwarz@kinnogene.com.au

Keith Ryall: kfryall@alphalink.com.au

Stephen Thorpe: secretary@iaf-world.org

International Association of Facilitators - Australia and New Zealand

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If you prefer not to receive the IAF-ANZ Newsletter, please email Stephen Thorpe at secretary@iaf-world.org .