

NEW CONVERSATIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE



The Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations That Matter

28–31 July 2010 | Eco Point | Murramarang | NSW



The Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations That Matter is a new practice of democracy that we really need in the world now.

Phil Cass, CEO, Columbus Medical Association & Foundation, Ohio

The art of hosting is a practice that heals the broken relationships between people.

EU Commission official



Conversations are the lifeblood of our world

By using the word *conversation* we mean all the ways that we listen, speak and communicate meaning to each other. We believe that improvement in the quality of the conversations between citizens, co-workers, stakeholders, governments, organisations, institutions and interest groups will benefit us all.

Organisation and community building requires that we engage in a new sort of conversation, one that we have not had before, one that can create an experience of aliveness and belonging and one that brings possibilities for a new future.

What are conversations that matter?

Conversations that matter are conversations where we connect more deeply with each other so that we can act more wisely. Often, these are high-stakes meetings between diverse parties trying to make a stuck system, large or small, succeed and realise its potential.

Our invitation

Our invitation is to share the transformative practices and conceptual frameworks of the Art of Hosting with you over three days on 28–31 July 2010 at the Murramarang Resort at South Durras on the NSW South Coast. The Murramarang Eco Resort is located on a protected beach just 15 minutes from Bateman's Bay. Accommodation will be in two bedroom en-suite cottages. There are many places for quiet reflection and small group discussions.

Join us on this unique transforming workshop with an international steward and Australian practitioners of the Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations.

Why now?

We may be redesigning national institutions and integrating services across agencies. We may wish to transform the organisation where we work. We may be working in a community looking to improve its future or we might be creating more effective policy in a range of areas. We may be working for a not-for-profit organisation seeking to clarify its role and increase its effectiveness. Or we may be a team leader wanting to enhance the cohesion and effectiveness of our team.

The creation of all of these outcomes depends on our ability to host and harvest the conversations that will allow us to co-create the intention for taking wise action. This is a crucial time for building new collaborative pathways.

The training and who it is for?

We are all able to learn this new way of conversation because it is built on the skills we already have. Our training forges a new combination of those skills.

Our training runs over three days. We will provide you with new thinking about living systems, new principles of organisational design, the challenge of balancing between order and chaos, the art of asking powerful questions and other topics. We teach these important subjects in an interactive and applied way.



Our training is based on vibrant conversations enriched by the diversity of the participants. There will be up to 45 participants from across all sectors in Australia.

If you are in Government or private enterprise, you will leave with clear intentions about how you can enhance the work you do. If you are in consulting or facilitation, you will see and experience processes that you will be able to incorporate into your practice. If you are involved in community work, the conversational skills we teach will be of immediate benefit in your work. If you are a project manager, this learning will enhance your stakeholder management and problem solving abilities. If you are leading a large-scale transformation these are essential skills and methods for you to engage your stakeholders and create sustained results.

The Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations That Matter training is being experienced by many groups around the world. Please see <http://www.artofhosting.org> to see the extent of the work.

Your hosts

The Australian Centre for Dialogue at The Australian National University, supported by *tellingthestory*, Global Learning and Workshop777, are hosts for this experience.

Your hosts are:

- ◆ Mary-Alice Arthur, SOAR, New Zealand
- ◆ Lyn Stephens, Director, Australian Centre for Dialogue, ANU
- ◆ Jill Currey, Manager, Leadership Programs University of Tasmania
- ◆ Mark Spain, Global Learning
- ◆ John Donovan, Workshop777
- ◆ Aart Groothuis, Principal, *tellingthestory*

How do I register to attend?

Log onto the workshop website to register: <http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/Artof/Conversation.htm>

Join us at the Eco Point Murramarang Resort from 1700 on Wednesday 28 July through 1600 on Saturday 31 July to experience co-creating powerful conversations, holding powerful intentions and forging new approaches.

The registration desk will open from 1600 on the Wednesday 28 July, in preparation for the opening dinner at 1800 followed by the first session at 1900.

Fees

The early bird fee for registrations before 30 June 2010 is \$1,985 (inc gst) which covers the learning and practicum, a journal and workbook, accommodation and all meals in an absorbing, collegiate, residential learning environment. Registration after 30 June attracts a fee of \$2,265 (inc gst).

Travel

You will need to make your own travel arrangements to the Murramarang Eco Resort. If you register early you will be able to connect with other participants via the program website to co-ordinate and share travel options.

Enquiries & information

For registration or logistics questions contact:

COAST staff coast@law.anu.edu.au
02 6125 1096

<http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/Artof/Conversation.htm>

Please address content questions to:

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John Donovan workshop777@bigpond.com or 0419 698 984
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