

Art of Hosting New Zealand Newsletter #2

January 2010

Welcome to 2010! We hope your holidays have been restful and your thoughts are feeling expansive -- what will you do to improve your practice this year? One way might be to invite others to take part in the Art of Hosting events coming up in March and then form a team and get to work! Please **help us create an explosion of participatory practice** across New Zealand by **encouraging others you know to participate**.

Making the most of your skills?

Many people who attended "Innovating From Within" last August went on to deepen their learning through practice back in the workplace. We've heard about World Café sessions, Open Space, circles popping up and plenty of powerful questions being asked. **What have you done to make the most of what you learned?**

3 Quick Tips to Refresh your knowledge

1. **Pick up your Art of Hosting Journal again** and dip into the sections that talk about organisational paradigms, the Chaordic Stepping Stones and the 5 breaths. These concepts help to explain the wider field we're working with and some of the cutting edge ideas about what's needed when we work in groups. Give yourself a reminder about *why* you want to work differently and *how* that might happen.
2. **Take your learning further on each of the methodologies.** Google the Open Space Technology website, the World Café website, the Appreciative Inquiry Commons, and maybe join their listserves. Christina Baldwin has a great guide to PeerSpirit circles on her website, as well.
3. **Get practicing!** Come to the Community of Practice meetings, grab colleagues who also attended the workshop, connect with fellow participants and ask them to buddy you. The best way to get practice is to start practicing. What is your commitment to making the most of the training? *Get started now!*



Help us reach our goals in March!

We have the goal of a thriving Community of Practice throughout New Zealand and **we need your help**. We want to have 85 people at each of the training events in Auckland and Wellington, and 30 people at Warrior of the Heart in Levin. We know that this is a very different way of working for most people and that personal invitation that can be trusted matters. **Please help us to network the event series with people you know, especially those who are looking for ways to engage their community either inside or outside the office.**

Updates...

The Early Bird has been extended!

We've extended the **Early Bird rate until this Friday, 29 January**. That will be good news for people still needing to get themselves sorted for March! You already know that we have a **special group rate for 10+ people** that can be used across all the events -- many organisations are deciding to send their people to both the training events because they will come back with a common foundation of skills, but with emphasis in two different areas. If you know of people who want to attend, but are finding the cost a challenge, please let us know! And if you'd like to attend again, you can, for a dramatically reduced rate.

Sponsorship

We're keen to have sponsorship that can help us make the events more affordable for community and young people. If you know of possible sponsors, or you know of an organisation willing to add someone else to their group, please contact Mary-Alice on mary-alice@getsoaring.com.

Community of Practice update

On **11 February** a hosting team has the opportunity to work with Mary-Alice to host a 2 hour "Good Engagement Seminar" for the Office of the Community & Voluntary Sector. **Two more people are needed for the team**, if you are interested, contact Mary-Alice. In **March** we'll have meetings with our international team in both Auckland and Wellington. If you haven't yet joined the Ning (GPS Community), there's an active trans-Tasman group already there and plenty of resources posted. If you let us know, we'll send you an invitation.

Book the dates in your diary now and encourage others to do the same!

Here's what's coming up in March

January 2010



Participatory Leadership: The Art of Hosting & Harvesting Conversations That Matter

4 - 6 March 2010, Waipuna Hotel, Auckland

- Aimed at creating leadership at all levels that gets commitment & results



Teams Creating Strategic Results: The Art of Hosting & Harvesting for Success

11 - 13 March 2010, Te Papa, Wellington

- An opportunity for innovation, change & lead teams to bring their work, issues and plans to a highly interactive session



Bridging the Islands of Achievement so New Zealand is a Great Place to Raise Kids

16 - 18 March 2010, Tatum Park, Levin

- A new conversation about working with and for kids



Warrior of the Heart: The Aikido of Balanced Leadership

19 - 21 March 2010, Tatum Park, Levin

- Explore & use power wisely
- Increased capacity for skillful, centered, courageous interactions

Full brochures for each of these events are available through contacting Emmerson Group on (04)387-9066, Mon - Thurs 9 - 12 only, or on info@emmersongroup.co.nz

What's new about this year's events?

The Facilitator Team

We have a talented, multi-disciplinary team holding and facilitating our events this year. **Toke** joins us again. **Monica** is an international expert on harvesting, **Tim** is leading large processes for young people and on strategic change. **Bob** is an Aikido Master and has run his own dojo. This team has vast experience overseas and will arrive with plenty of practical stories about how Art of Hosting has been applied and how it works in different contexts. Our NZ team consists of: **Mary-Alice** is a leading narrative practitioner, who has taken culture change to scale. **Helen** has worked with senior and leadership teams throughout the public & private sector. **Craig** has been in senior leadership in the public sector with over 30 years experience. We will also have selected apprentices working with the facilitator team during the training events.

The Support Teams

We took a close look at what happened at the event last year and decided to include a number of teams to support participants to have the most positive, powerful experience yet. This year we're adding three support teams to each of our training events made up of past participants.

A **coaching team** will help individual and group participants to become very clear about where they can apply AoH skills within their practice and their organisation. This team will be focusing on the "nitty gritty" -- *where* can you use this, *when* can you use this, *why* should you use it and *what* do you need to get started. Craig will be stewarding this team.

Harvesting teams at each event will help the group to make the most of the experience during and after the training. The harvesting team will come prepared to capture what we're learning in many forms and will be open to participants to join during the event. If you've always wondered how to get others to understand what happened during your meetings and step with you into the future, this is the place to be! Monica will be stewarding this team.

Each of our events will also have a **Logistics team** to make sure the group is well-supported on every level. Helen will be stewarding this team.

Notes from Copenhagen...

Last August, Toke put out an invitation for a Learning Village in Copenhagen during the CoP15. I joined 15 others from around the world for 10 intense days of deep inquiry, outreach, facilitation and learning. We met in a flat near the train station at least twice daily, took part in a wide variety of activities, hosted a public Open Space and I spent 5 days inside the KlimaForum as a volunteer on the Climate Solutions Meshwork. I could dramatically see the difference between "broadcast" and the power of transformational conversation and I felt hopeful at all the connections being made and the future of this work. A rich experience!

Mary-Alice