

Planning By and With the People

A National Conference on
Community Conversations,
Engagement &
Collaboration



This represents an opportunity to learn and share with others from across the globe committed to increasing the involvement of local residents in designing and implementing a vision for positive change.

At the heart of this engagement is a renewal of the concept of community, the importance of community conversations and the need to create and sustain more socially, economically and environmentally friendly community lifestyles.

This event seeks to demystify the processes of community conversations, engagement and collaboration through the sharing of story illustrations and participation in practical skill development workshops.

When: Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December, 2009
(with additional option: pre-conference workshops on December 8 & 9)

Where: Rydges Bell City, 215 Bell Street,
Preston, Melbourne (20 minutes from Melbourne Airport)



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Public Participation Spectrum

Increasing Level of Public Impact

Inform

Consult

Involve

Collaborate

Empower

Speakers and facilitators include:

JIM VARGHESE

Former Director-General of the Department of Primary Industries in Queensland and now CEO of the Springfield Land Corporation in Queensland.

Jim has trained under Margaret Wheatley who, with Paul Born, is considered by many as the international authority on the theme of community conversations. Margaret describes Jim as 'one of the most brilliant leaders I have ever worked with'. Jim's address will draw upon his involvement with the use of 'community conversation' techniques in experiences like coordinating a response to Cyclone Larry in North Queensland and the establishment of a new Queensland city - Springfield.

GILBERT ROCHECOUSTE

Gilbert is Managing Director of Village Well and is internationally considered as a leading authority in the field of 'placemaking'. He will excite the audience with his insights about building place, spirit and a sense of community.

KATHLEEN TWEETEN

Director, Center for Community Vitality and Community Economic Development, North Dakota State University and creator of 'BAND - Beginning Again North Dakota'.

Kathleen is the past president of the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals and Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI). Kathy works with NDSU faculty and others to coordinate research, teaching and outreach to assist individuals and community leaders interested in community vitality. The North Dakota legislature authorized the Beginning Again North Dakota (BAND) pilot program for 2008. Two rural North Dakota towns were selected to participate in the asset-based community assessment and development BAND program using the community capitals framework

PETER KENYON

A community enthusiast and social capitalist from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. and author of 16 publications on community and economic development.

MICHAEL O'MEARA

The driving force behind MOHOW - a unique company focused on providing opportunities for young people (and those interested in working with them) to dream and act on those dreams as individuals and communities.

AMY SCOTT

Described as an energizer bunny, Amy is the young dynamic Director from Red Gumboot Consulting Ltd, based in Central Otago, New Zealand who has evolved a proven communication tool called "Let's Get Dotted".

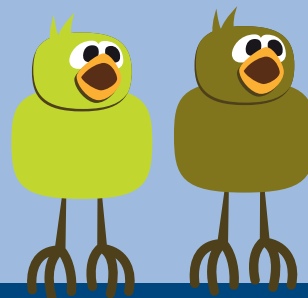
Amy Scott moves mountains. She's inspirational, motivational, committed, and really really purple. She has an ability to change people's lives. Every community should have an Amy Scott.

'Great communities don't just happen! They are created, nurtured and sustained by caring and involved residents. We need to rediscover community by working from the bottom up and inside out.'

(Peter Kenyon)

'I can't save the world on my own ... it will take at least three of us'.

(Bill Mollison)



Proposed Program*:

Thursday 10th December, 2009

From 8.00am	Registration and coffee
9.00am	Welcome and let's discover each other and our Conference aspirations through "Café Conversations"
10.10am	Keynote presentation - 'Creating Public Value with Community Building', Jim Varghese, Springfield Land Corporation.
11.00 am	Refreshments and networking
11.20am	Workshop option 1
12.50pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Workshop option 2
3.30pm	Refreshments and networking
3.50pm	Workshop 3
5.15pm	Close of formal program for Day 1
7.00pm	Drinks
7.30pm	Conference Dinner featuring comedian Rod Quantock and his ideas on community

Friday 11th December, 2009

8.30am	Coffee
9.15am	Keynote presentation - 'Building Again North Dakota' Approach (Kathleen Tweeten, Director, NDSU Center for Community Vitality and Community Economic Development, North Dakota State University)
9.45am	OPEN SPACE
12.15pm	Lunch and networking
1.15pm	Workshop option 3
2.45pm	Refreshments and networking
3.00pm	Keynote Presentation - 'Time to Think Differently about the Power of Community...stories from around the globe' (Peter Kenyon, Director, Bank of I.D.E.A.S.)
3.45pm	Summary and farewell

*NOTE: Conference program subject to change without notice

A unique feature of this conference will be the operation of three practical workshop stands, namely -

- Creating meaningful community conversations and connections
- Engaging citizens in business and local economic development
- Facilitating young people to lead and teach in terms of community and economic development

Workshop Options:

PRE CONFERENCE ONE DAY WORKSHOP EVENTS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Creating meaningful community conversations and connections

- Beyond public meetings - Innovative community conversation techniques
- Engaging in real community planning
- 'Transition Communities' movement
- Appreciative inquiry methodologies
- Motivating and maintaining active community involvement
- Asset mapping methodologies
- Concepts of Sharehood and neighbourhood skills banks
- 'Getting Dotted' - a powerful communication tool
- Ensuring diversity of participation in community dialogues, especially those with disabilities and other marginalized citizens

Engaging citizens in business and local economic development

- Relocalisation initiatives
- Applying an ABCD approach to local economic development
- The Business Retention and Expansion (BEAR) Program
- Attracting young adults to rural communities
- 'Life in the Past Lane' - using heritage as an economic tool

Facilitating young people to lead and teach in terms of community and economic development

- Developing local youth policy through young people
- Getting young people engaged in national and international development opportunities
- Young people as philanthropists
- Youth enterprise - young people and economic development
- Using dance to engage different cultures
- Youth led initiatives to create safe communities

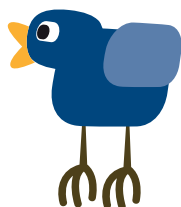
Special Youth Focus:

Participating groups are encouraged to use the event to include young people in their delegation. One stream of workshops will be facilitated by young community and economic participants.

* **ADDITIONAL OPTION**

Pre Conference Workshops
December 8 & 9
(9AM TO 5PM)

See details right and on the back of this document of four one day workshops that will be offered on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 December.



1. Community Engagement

We have understood for some time that community engagement means "people working collaboratively, through inspired action and learning, to create and realize bold visions for their common future." In this Workshop, the basic principles of community engagement, the seven leading engagement models of community engagement and a simple five-step community engagement process will be introduced. Drawing on participant experiences, current trends that undermine community engagement and the cost of disengagement will be explored. Participants will leave this workshop with the latest reference and resource material, plus the best ideas from across the globe on providing effective leadership to achieve successful outcomes in community engagement.

Workshop Facilitator – Gilbert Rochecouste, Village Well.

Gilbert will follow the format devised by Paul Born of Tamarack (Canada) who have an exciting ten year journey advancing place based solutions to entrenched problems like poverty through the adoption of innovative community engagement processes and tools. Paul has had to cancel his trip to Australia but the workshop will incorporate the following elements –

- Demystification of the concepts of conversation, engagement, collaboration and civic leadership.
- Introduction to transformational engagement practices
- Reaching and engaging the 'differently minded' and those often not 'around the table'
- Provision of a Community Engagement Tool Kit with a range of resources and innovative techniques.
- Special presentation by DVD from Paul Born especially prepared for this workshop – Paul will subsequently be connected to the workshop for a question and answer session.

2. The Business Expansion and Retention (B.E.A.R.) Program Facilitators Course

The Business Expansion and Retention (B.E.A.R.) Program is simply a community wide dialogue with owners and operators of local businesses about what helps and hinders their commercial activities, and what ideas they have to improve the local business environment. It involves the mobilisation and training of local community volunteers who visit local businesses and engage in conversation through the use of a structured questionnaire. The information generated through these conversations then becomes the basis for immediate community response to any requests for assistance by businesses and the design and implementation of a community and economic development strategy. This course will provide the necessary background information (history, philosophy and case studies of application) and the set of tools required to facilitate its introduction to, and use with local communities.

Workshop Facilitators - Kathleen Tweeten, Director, Center for Community Vitality and Community Economic Development, North Dakota State University (USA) and Peter Kenyon, Director of the Bank Of I.D.E.A.S.

Both Kathy and Peter have been internationally accredited Trainers in the B.E.A.R. Program for over 15 years and responsible for introducing the tool into Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. For more details on B.E.A.R., check Peter's website – www.bankofideas.com.au

PRE-CONFERENCE ONE DAY WORKSHOPS

(each limited to 30 participants)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

1. "Get Dotted – A fresh approach to communication in communities"

"Get Dotted" involves the removal of communication confusion from the lives of community residents. "Get Dotted" is quite possibly the hottest new community development tool to hit the planet! This workshop will involve a day of laughter and learning, where participants learn about their communication style, and the style of others. Participants cannot help but experience clearer communication, less confusion, lower stress levels, greater efficiency, improved community building, more effective committees and far greater levels of happiness.

WARNING – this "Get Dotted!" training has resulted in happier people, happier families and definitely happier communities.

Workshop Facilitator - Amy Scott, a young dynamic former criminal lawyer from Central Otago, New Zealand

Amy has discovered her passion is community building. She cannot drive a tractor, but can she talk, entertain and enthuse! Recently Amy and her "Get Dotted" facilitation was described by Inspector Mike Cook of New Zealand Police in these terms - "Amy's continuous passion and drive is infectious and inspires communities she is working with to achieve the results they are seeking. I have seen her relentless effort inspire even the most sceptical members of our communities".

For more details on Amy and "Get Dotted" check her website – www.redgumboot.com

2. Facilitating Asset Based Community Development (A.B.C.D.)

Communities have never been built upon their deficiencies and weaknesses. Community building has always depended on identifying and mobilizing the capacities and assets of a people and a place. This workshop will provide in depth understanding of the philosophy and practice of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), namely –

- shifting the development mindset from needs and deficiencies to assets and capacities;
- identifying, mapping and connecting the diverse range of community assets; and
- harnessing the connected assets to a hopeful future for the community.

In addition, this Workshop will provide insight into the critical facilitation tools of resource mapping, dialoguing, storytelling and Appreciative Inquiry.

Workshop Facilitators – This workshop will be lead by an international team of practitioners who have had extensive experience applying ABCD in community and economic development across a variety of countries.

Costs

Conference cost: \$550 (including GST)

Pre-conference workshop costs: Each Workshop event costs \$245 and includes relevant manuals and /or publication.

Registration:

Go to www.mav.asn.au/planby

Cancellations:

No cancellations after 1 December, 2009 will be accepted. However, a substitute delegate is welcome.

Interstate Attendees:

Take advantage of the current low airfares.

Accommodation (suggested):

Contact Rydges on Bell (Melways 30H1),
Ph: 03 9485 0041

Conference Organisers:

This event is being hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) with support from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. and MOHOW.

Conference Contacts:

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For More Information
on Pre Conference
Workshops-

Contact **Peter Kenyon** (Bank of I.D.E.A.S.)

on

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