

Appreciative Inquiry Forum ... Exploring Appreciative Inquiry in Australia

6 October 2010

[http://
appreciativeinquiry.com.au](http://appreciativeinquiry.com.au)

Come along to this *highly interactive* forum on Appreciative Inquiry, a strength focused approach to positive change.

Ideal for those who are curious and would like to experience a taste of the *powerful* AI 4-D process that has been used successfully in many countries around the world.

And a *great opportunity* for AI practitioners to come together with like-minded people to share stories, wisdom and experiences – and *explore possibilities for connecting or collaborating*.

Active networks of AI practitioners and enthusiasts meet regularly in other parts of the world, such as in the US and Europe. A number of Australians attended the International Appreciative Inquiry Conference in Nepal in November 2009.

Inspired by experiences four of us had in Nepal and the stories shared by other AI folk from around the world, as well as our conversations since that time, a small group of us have organised this forum.

The format of the day will follow a shortened form of the AI 4-D Cycle. We will *discover, dream and design* together as much as we can within only one day.

Celebrating Story

... Bringing People and Work to Life

7 & 8 October 2010

This conference is for you if you are:

- Seeking new (or old) ways to help bring meaningful connection, relationship and work to fruition within the workplace and beyond
- Interested in learning more about the many and diverse ways of working with story and narrative across business, community and government
- A story or narrative practitioner in any guise

Where: Abbotsford Convent, Abbotsford, VIC

Cost:

Non-Corporate

Two days \$770 (inc GST)

One day \$418 (inc GST)

Corporate

Two days \$880 (inc GST)

One day \$473 (inc GST)

Themes:

- Leading and learning with story
- Working with culture, myth and indigenous story
- Authorship and the Ethics of Stories



So the outcomes of the forum will very much depend on the wisdom, hopes and dreams that we all bring to it!

Where: Abbotsford Convent, Abbotsford, VIC

Cost: NONE



A human being is nothing but a story with skin around it. (Fred Allen)

- Different ways of knowing through Story
- Breaking the silence: Giving Voice and Healing through Story

We have a treasure house of presenters travelling from all over Australia and New Zealand to bring this conference to life.

More information:

www.babelfishgroup.com

Download the flyer:

[www.babelfishgroup.com/
CelebratingStoryConference](http://www.babelfishgroup.com/CelebratingStoryConference)

*Appreciation is to humans
what the sun is for plants.
(Frank Iversen)*

Inspirations

The Heart of a Teacher

<http://bit.ly/aM0ft6>

A short inspiring movie from Simple Truths

What Matters More than Your Talents

from Jeff Bezos

<http://bit.ly/bCUgft>

In this Princeton University graduation address, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos makes the case that our character is reflected not in the gifts we're endowed with at birth, but by the choices we make over the course of a lifetime.

Coaching for People Not Points

<http://bit.ly/b8b4y4>

With profound simplicity, Coach John Wooden redefines success and urges us all to pursue the best in ourselves. In this inspiring talk he shares the advice he gave his players at UCLA, quotes poetry and remembers his father's wisdom.

In Praise of Slowness

<http://bit.ly/buiCzw>

Journalist Carl Honore believes the Western world's emphasis on speed erodes health, productivity and quality of life. But there's a backlash brewing, as everyday people start putting the brakes on their all-too-modern lives.

www.slowmovement.com



The Hidden World of Girls

www.kitchensisters.org/girlstories/

The Kitchen Sisters, Davia Nelson & Nikki Silva have launched a multimedia series *exploring the hidden world of girls. Stories of coming of age, rituals and rites of passage, secret identities—of women who crossed a line, blazed a trail, changed the tide.*

There are inspiring stories, like that of Tiina Urm, one of the initiators of the “Let’s Do It” campaign in Estonia—a group who organized 50,000 Estonians to do in one day what it would have taken

the government 3 years and 22 million euros to do – clean up 10,000 tons of illegal garbage littering the countryside:

<http://www.kitchensisters.org/girlstories/447/>

Or powerful and moving pieces like the poem and photographs of *Women of Troy*: <http://www.kitchensisters.org/girlstories/inverse/>

You can also catch excerpts and audio stories from the series on the NPR website at: <http://n.pr/9YwWf0>



Your Brain on Computers

Many of us are old enough to remember a time before Blackberry devices and wireless computing - even before mobile phones and the internet.

Life has certainly changed! And it is affecting the way in which people work AND play. How many people do you know who are almost permanently “connected”? People who rarely, if ever can be away from their mobile phone, their emails and their computer screens for an extended time?

The New York Times recently ran a series of articles exploring this phenomenon. (Hyperlinks have been shortened, as they were very long.)

Digital Devices Deprive Brain of Needed Downtime:

<http://nyti.ms/9uxii4>

Outdoors and Out of Reach, Studying the Brain

<http://nyti.ms/cOI9cz>

Attached to a Computer & Paying a Price

<http://nyti.ms/aXN12K>

An Ugly Toll of Technology: Impatience and Forgetfulness

<http://nyti.ms/9hFLtj>

The New York Times also issued a challenge, calling for volunteers who were willing to give up technology for a time and share their experiences.

You can listen to some of those stories here:

<http://nyti.ms/bz5HDZ>

Food for thought? No doubt. :)

And if you ‘re now wondering if you too are ‘hooked on technology’, you may also like to read this article:

First Steps to Digital Detox

<http://nyti.ms/cGi0oV>

Hmm .. perhaps it’s time to try going for a whole day without that mobile phone? Or - horror of horrors - perhaps even without wearing a watch?

(Thank you to Bob Tschannen-Moran for the heads up on this one)

The Blue Sweater

<http://www.acumenfund.org/bluesweater/>

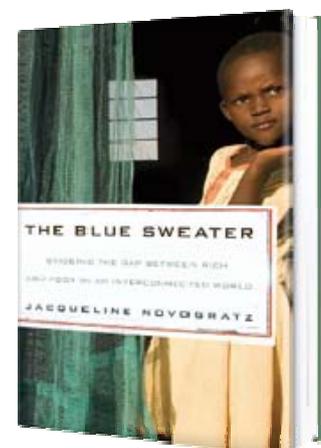
The Blue Sweater is the inspiring personal memoir of a woman who has spent her life on a quest to understand global poverty and to find powerful new ways of tackling it.

"My dream is that together we imagine a world where finally we can extend the fundamental principle that all men are created equal to every human being on the planet."
(Jacqueline Novogratz)

From her first stumbling efforts as a young idealist venturing forth in Africa to the creation of the trailblazing organization she runs today, Jacqueline Novogratz brings us a series of insightful stories and unforgettable characters — from women dancing in a Nairobi slum, to unwed mothers starting a bakery, to courageous survivors of the Rwandan genocide, to entrepreneurs building services for the poor against impossible odds.

She shows, in ways both hilarious and heartbreaking, how traditional charity often fails, but how a new form of philanthropic investing called "patient capital" can help make people self-sufficient and change millions of lives.

More than just an auto-biography or a how-to guide to tackling poverty, this book challenges us to grant dignity to the poor and to rethink our engagement with the world.



Conscious Governance

<http://www.conscious-governance.com/>

An interesting collection of resources for nonprofit organisations about 'leading consciously' and conscious governance - including videos, podcasts and downloadable articles.

"Our Vision is to create a community where nonprofit leaders function from strategic awareness. We value sharing of information, facilitating strategic awareness in all we do, and functioning from a space of prosperity." (Steven Bowman)

A Conscious CEO cultivates the following attributes:

- Living as the question
- Having no fixed point of view on anything
- Receiving everything without being judgmental
- Functioning from prosperity rather than scarcity



Leadership is a function of questions. And the first question for a leader always is: 'Who do we intend to be?' Not 'What are we going to do?' but 'Who do we intend to be?' (Max DePree, Hermann Miller)

Third Sector Magazine

<http://thirdsectormagazine.com.au>

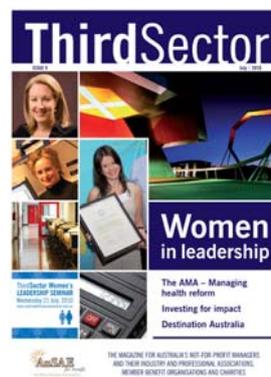
Excellent magazine for nonprofits. Issues can be read online or downloaded as pdfs.

Third Sector is the magazine for Australia's not-for-profit sector.

Published quarterly, Third Sector is directly mailed to 3,900 individuals and

the magazine is distributed at a range of sector events throughout the year.

Every edition covers key areas of interest to not-for-profit organisations including: news, governance, advocacy, membership, leadership and fundraising, while also providing information on meetings and events.



Search Toolkit for Charities and Public Sector

<http://www.iabuk.net/en/1/charitiesandpublicservicetoolkit.html>

The Internet Advertising Bureau in the UK has teamed up with brands such as Oxfam, Shelter and the COI to provide best practice case studies in the use of search, and stress the importance of having a thorough strategy.

With 89% of active internet users relying on search engines, resulting in almost 2 billion searches per month in the UK it is now the cornerstone of consumers' online activity, and the toolkit is an essential for charity brands looking to boost their traffic, public interest and donations online.

The toolkit illustrates how for non-profit and charity campaigns there are a number of reasons why search marketing is so significant – in particular it can help generate donations, you can monitor results in real time and you can also use search to react immediately to emergency news stories or natural disasters when they hit.

The guide, which uses case studies from the Not for Profit sector, gives detailed information on search engine optimisation (SEO), paid search (PPC), universal search (search involving video, maps, news etc.) and search and social media.

The guide provides tips on getting to know the audience, useful tools, setting targets and agreeing budgets for paid search, integrating search with other media, landing page optimisation, advanced search techniques and judging and evaluating the success of search campaigns.

The guide also includes a list of links and resources on digital media best practice for NFPs.

(Source: Pro Bono Australia)

The not-for-profit sector in Australia is highly influential with as much as 65 per cent of the population belonging to some type of not-for-profit organisation. Australia's not-for-profit sector also contributes at least \$29.6 billion or 4.7 per cent to Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) making it one of our largest 'industries'. (Third Sector Magazine Website)

Blogging in Schools

Why Teachers and Schools Should be Blogging

<http://vids.edublogs.org/2008/04/19/collaborative-video-making/>

Wormbins

<http://wormbins.edublogs.org/>

A blog created by students from a Sydney primary school. They've also produced a great video on how to make a worm farm: <http://wormbins.edublogs.org/category/worm-farm/>

Our Class Blogging

<http://vids.edublogs.org/2008/04/19/our-class-blogging/>

A video showing interviews with teachers and students in an Australian primary school about their experiences of using blogging in the classroom.

Survey Your Class

<http://vids.edublogs.org/2008/04/07/survey-your-class/>

A short video showing how Survey Monkey was used in a primary school classroom to obtain student feedback about a project they had done.

Blogging Corner

<http://www.groups.edna.edu.au/course/view.php?id=1862>

An Education Network Australia (EDNA) group for educational bloggers and teachers using blogging in their classrooms.

Blogging4Learning Wiki

<http://blogging4learning.wikispaces.com/>

Bright Ideas

<http://slav.globalteacher.org.au/>

A blog by the School Library Association of Victoria

Sandaig Primary School

And finally, with thanks to Clare Fletcher, here is one primary school in the UK that makes effective use of blogs:

<http://www.sandaigprimary.co.uk/>



International Association of School Librarianship

<http://www.iasl-online.org>

With their home office based in Queensland, Australia, the International Association of School Librarianship offers a wide range of support, information, activities and special interest groups for all those involved in school libraries around the globe. There are a number of membership options with differing fees. See their website for more details.

The mission of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) is to provide an international forum for those people interested in promoting effective school library media programs as viable instruments in the educational process. IASL also provides guidance and advice for the development of school library programs and the school library profession. IASL works in cooperation with other professional associations and agencies.

Membership is worldwide, and includes school librarians, teachers, librarians, library advisers, consultants, educational administrators, and others who are responsible for library and information services in schools. The membership also includes professors and instructors in universities and colleges where there are programmes for school librarians, and students who are undertaking such programmes.

Enhance TV

<http://www.enhancetv.com.au/index.php>

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(Source EDNA for Schools, 14 April 2010)



Musical Medicine

Composing Concertos in the Key of Rx

<http://nyti.ms/9IasAj>

An interesting article from the New York Times.

Vera Brandes, the director of the research program in music and medicine at the Paracelsus Private Medical University in Salzburg, Austria, is developing medication in the form of music, dispensed as a prescription.

For more information, visit the Paracelsus Private Medical University website at:

<http://www.pmu.ac.at/en/188.htm>

(Thank you to Stephanie West Allen for this item.)

Australian Music Therapy Association

<http://www.austmta.org.au/>

The Australian Music Therapy Association (AMTA) Inc. was founded in 1975 as the sole Australian organisation for the profession of music therapy.

It is a member of the World Federation of Music Therapy and the Music Council of Australia. AMTA has State Branches, Interest Groups and representatives throughout Australia.

It offers support and professional development for Registered Music Therapists, and general membership to anyone with an interest in music therapy



Learning: Peering Backward and Looking Forward in the Digital Era

<http://bit.ly/ddHo67>

A powerful academic article written by Margaret Weigel (Project Manager) Carrie James (Research Director) and Howard Gardner (Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education) from Project Zero, at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



As the authors say in the introduction:

In this article we argue that, after millennia of considering education (learning and teaching) chiefly in one way, we may well have reached a set of tipping points: Going forward, learning may be far more individualized, far more in the hands (and the minds) of the learner, and far more interactive than ever before. This constitutes a paradox: As the digital era progresses, learning may be at once more individual (contoured to a person's own style, proclivities, and interests) yet more social (involving networking, group work, the wisdom of crowds, etc.)

Very few schools have risen to the challenge of remaining relevant; most have hardly progressed beyond the models in place a century ago. What might it take for slow-to-change schools to embrace the potentials, and deftly manage the risks, associated with digital media and cultivate broader competences for the future? (Weigel, James & Gardner)

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation

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

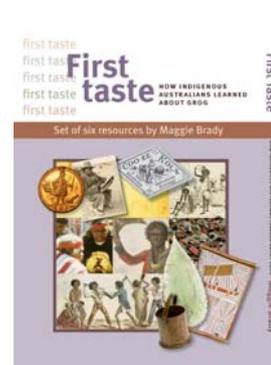
Useful resource for anyone affected by or working in the field of alcohol and inhalant misuse.

AER works with the community to address alcohol and inhalant misuse for a healthier and safer Australia.

A copy of their recent report *The Range and Magnitude of Alcohol's Harm to Others* is downloadable from the website.

You can also use the "Need Help" link at the bottom of the page to reach various resources they offer, for example: *First Taste: How Indigenous Australians learned about grog.*

<http://www.aerf.com.au/community/firsttaste.aspx>



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● ... inspiring and connecting people

Inspired Performance

Does the phrase 'performance appraisal' leave you cold? Make you groan at yet another onerous task to be completed?

Our Inspired Performance programs offer an exciting and effective alternative to traditional performance appraisals and interviews: a strength-focused approach to performance management that can be satisfying - and enjoyable - for all involved!

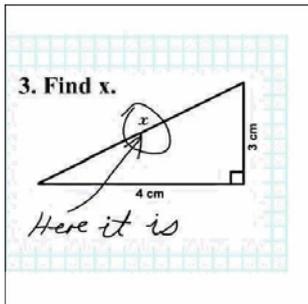
(Specially designed programs also available for schools)

For more information, visit:

<http://bjseminars.com.au/programs/inspired-performance/>



Just for Fun: How to Fail an Exam with Dignity



(Thanks to Christine Brown for these giggles.)

Where was Hadrian's Wall built?
 Around Hadrian's garden

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.
 Two polar bears
~~Three~~ Four seals

What is the meaning of the word 'varicose'?
 Close by

Joanna works in an office. Her computer is a stand-alone system. What is a stand-alone computer system?
 It doesn't come with a chair

Social Media Whirlpool



Reflections
 CHRIS BENNETT

I've been trying to stay afloat, catching up with all the social media, but at times it feels like a whirlpool sucking me into a void.

There's Twitter - shorthand penpal system - that has a constant stream of 140 character messages that become a torrent each day, making it difficult to read let alone catch up.

There's Facebook, which I find has a more personal touch than Twitter because I have a small number of followers. But even so I feel the need to contribute and stay current on a daily basis.

There's LinkedIn, which is more business focused and it is difficult to share news without becoming too commercial and annoying.

There are blogs, of which I have two, *Chris Chats* and *Chris Chi* where I try to write two posts for each one per week. And usually I have to think of something to write on a daily basis.

Social media is convenient and fast and a great way of staying in touch with people around the world.

But occasionally I like to lift my head out above the whirlpool.

And have more 'good old fashioned yarns' (conversations) face to face.

It somehow feels more human.



"Twitter is a great place to tell the world what you're thinking before you've had a chance to think about it."
 (Chris Pirillo, blogger)