



Come join this special two day event

Following on from last year's Celebrating Story conference we welcome and invite you to this year's Celebrating Story Conference themed on "Bringing People and Work to Life".

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

→ Thursday 7 / Friday 8 / October 2010
Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne

→ **Event Location** *(see page 3)*

→ **Workshop Leaders** *(see page 7-23)*

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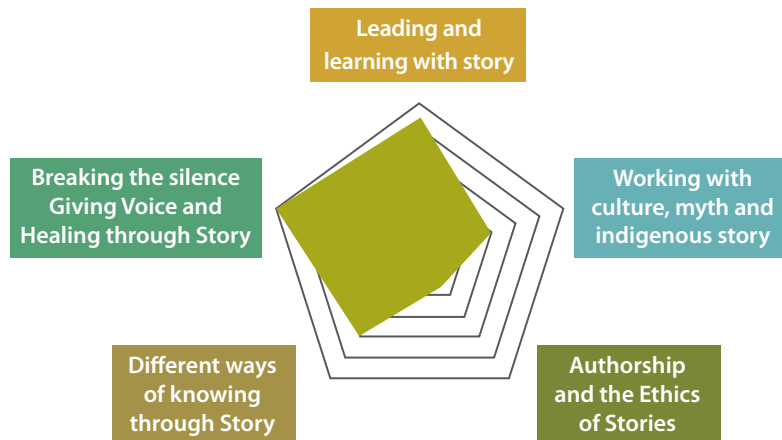


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Presenter Theme Offerings

We have a treasure house of presenters travelling from all over Australia and New Zealand to bring this conference to life. The five core streams which run through this conference are represented below and provide rich opportunities for learning and engagement.



Feedback about last year's Conference

"Great conference with great presenters and participants. Participants were very diverse yet the sense of community was tangible. Don't miss the next one."

Bob Dick, Author and Inveterate Action Researcher

"It was fantastic, a real opportunity to engage and learn from different people. Intellectually stimulating as well as providing useful tools - both personally and professionally. You under-promised and over-delivered in all areas."

Karin Knoester, CEO of Gawler Foundation

"This is a welcome and much needed innovation in Australia"

Christine Hogan, Author, Consultant and Adjunct Associate Professor

"A lovely blend of playfulness and soulfulness with lashings of inspiration and many useful ideas and contacts."

Russell Deal, MD of Innovative Resources

"Fabulous event, great location, excellent workshops"

Julie Becker, Communications and Community Relations, Melbourne Water

"Fantastic to be gathered with a group of people all interested in exploring and working with story"

Andrew Gray, Co-artistic Director, Melbourne Playback Theatre

"What a great two days! Brilliant energy held by the participants which was supported by the fantastic venue, itself a story many years in the making."

Gareth Murphy, Leadership and Development, MLC

Event Details

Event Location



To provide this two day event with a unique atmosphere we have chosen the **Abbotsford Convent**.

A place of story, the Abbotsford Convent is fast becoming an important arts, educational and cultural precinct in Melbourne. Just 4 kilometres from Melbourne's CBD, its 11 historic buildings, gardens and car park are spread over 6.8 hectares in a sweeping bend in the Yarra River and are surrounded by the Collingwood Children's Farm and Yarra Bend Park.



The conference dinner event will be held at the atmospheric **Studley Park Boathouse**.

Only 10 minutes from the city centre, the Restaurant in the beautifully restored Victorian/Edwardian residence at historic Studley Park Boathouse, Kew offers the special ambience of contemporary fine dining together with sweeping views of the Yarra River and natural bushland.

Registration Rates

	2 Day Pass	1 Day Pass
Super Early Bird (before June 30th)	\$550 (inc GST)	\$308 (inc GST)
Early Bird (before July 31st)	\$660 (inc GST)	\$363 (inc GST)
Non-Corporate	\$770 (inc GST)	\$418 (inc GST)
Corporate	\$880 (inc GST)	\$473 (inc GST)

Need help? Email us on: storyconference@babelfishgroup.com

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Event Program



Special Features of this year's Conference

With this event being one of Babel Fish Group's Crucible events, we will work hard to provide the opportunities and conditions for rich connection and conversation throughout the two days of the conference.

Unique features of this year's conference include a special indigenous welcome and opening to the conference. Melbourne Playback Theatre opening up the second day of the conference enabling participants to explore and reflect on the emerging stories of the conference. Lunch times will see a new Open Space stream to enable more conversations, explorations and dialoguing.

And a couple of other special surprises which you will have to come along to find out!

"Crucible: A vessel that can maintain high temperatures and transforms its ingredients as a result"



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Leading and learning with story

Bob Dick

Energising and activating collaborative change with story

Interaction Level 



I'm an independent scholar, a facilitator of change, and an occasional academic and author. I would do this work for fun if I wasn't doing it for a living. This is especially because it so often involves working with people who want to make the world a better place. In an increasingly complex and turbulent world I find action research and action learning useful methodologies and mindsets. In such work, story is a valuable medium for collecting information that is more than merely intellectual.

Session Description

When people tell each other stories of their own and their colleagues strengths and achievements they stir their optimism and enthusiasm. When everyone in a community or organisation is involved, in pairs, in such an activity, an energy for change can be created. In this session, in the style of appreciative inquiry, participants in pairs will elicit each other's stories about their meaningful achievements. They will then help each other construct aspirational stories about how they will build on those achievement in the future.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

- a deeper understanding of the versatility of story
- experience of a robust and energising technique for beginning a collaborative change process
- a lift in their own energy and enthusiasm and optimism
- a deeper relationship with one other participant.

Dr Stephen Smith & Murray Bingham

Story – Generating Transformational Moments

Interaction Level 



Steve Smith and Murray Bingham are using story as a powerful tool for organisation wide change. Working in a religious non-profit across multiple welfare, health and community projects they have used story to help leaders pursue personal formation as a pathway to organisation-wide transformation. They also consult with a range of corporate and government clients. Steve has just submitted his second doctorate focusing on using story as part of a participatory action research project to bring about organisational change.

Session Description

The organisation is seen as a complex adaptive system where agents of change are able to use story to navigate confidently through a turbulent environment. Participants will be experientially engaged in an interactive session where they can see, learn and apply what is modelled into their own organisational context – changing their organisation by changing themselves.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Participants will personally know and experience story as an adaptive tool that can fully engage and unleash multigenerational leaders (Boomers, Gen X, Gen Y) as co-generators of organisation-wide transformation.



Leading and learning with story

Arthur Shelley

Metaphor stories that make a difference



Interaction Level LOW HIGH

Arthur uses story and metaphor in his roles as a mentor, strategy consultant and educator. He is the author of two books: *Being a Successful Knowledge Leader* and *The Organizational Zoo, A Survival Guide to Workplace Behavior*, and works with organisations to enhance outcomes. In his former role of Global Knowledge Director at Cadbury Schweppes, he used stories to assist in the facilitation of virtual global communities to exchange ideas and increase productivity. He incorporates humour and metaphor into his workshops to build understanding, trust and relationships, enhance teamwork and secure ownership. His *Conversations that Matter* technique leverages diversity and facilitates emergence of collaborative concepts to include into strategy. Arthur created and mentors the Organizational Zoo Ambassador Network, a free voluntary group interested in using the "Zoo Concepts". Arthur is a regular speaker/workshop facilitator at international conferences and is also the Knowledge Management course coordinator for RMIT University's MBA program.

Session Description

An interactive workshop involving the use of metaphoric images to stimulate stories and role plays. These will stimulate fun interactions in a safe emergent environment that enables reflective learning and rich knowledge transfer. We will play a variety of card games and explore the impact of behaviour in a creative environment that promotes non-political constructive exchanges, develops relationships and enhances outcomes.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Understand the power of metaphor in stories to engage people in your quest and lead them towards an emergent future. Have fun with cartoon based rich images and learn how to stimulate stories with metaphor cards that enables people to build trust and strengthen relationships.

Simon Bruce

Coaching and Mentoring -
Buying and Selling Stories



Interaction Level LOW HIGH

Simon is a leadership expert consulting to a large variety of organisations. Through his coaching and mentoring he inspires executives to embrace new ways of thinking and achieve higher levels of performance. His strength is unearthing the real issues that explain the stories at hand. Simon's ability to create the right space and environment for people to be heard enables transformation to take place. He also believes it is equally important to encourage the "letting go" of stories so as to allow new beginnings. In addition to his keen interest in the use of story in his professional activities, Simon also taps into the power of story outside of work: in particular the telling of stories through photos, screenplays and articles.

Session Description

Coaching and mentoring, whether formal or informal, are important activities for success in today's business and professional world. This session will highlight the integral role that stories play in both coaching and mentoring and will explain how coaches and mentors need to harness the power of stories in order to create desired outcomes. Featuring experiential activities, the session will suggest that we are seeking to either "sell" or "buy" a story when we are being coached or mentored and that these stories are in fact based on the vision and values of those telling the story.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

An understanding of the differences and similarities between coaching and mentoring and the significance of stories in both settings along with an appreciation of what these stories are really about. An awareness of how we can strengthen collaboration and effectiveness in the professional environment and increase our understanding of each other by learning to communicate what is really important to us.



Presenter Topic – Working with culture, myth and indigenous story

Thomas Tawhiri

Maaui - Legend of the Pacific

Interaction Level



Thomas Tawhiri, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, New Zealand. Thomas is a descendant of the Whakatōhea and Ngāi Tai tribes of the Eastern Bay of Plenty, from Ngāti Raukawa ki Wharepuhunga in the Waikato and from Te Arawa waka in the Rotorua districts. Thomas has worked extensively in Māori education and Wānanga or higher learning and has taught in both Primary and Secondary Schools including spending a short period of time in the Education Review Office as a review officer of Māori education. Thomas has a passion for Māori language and culture, performing arts, weaponry and genealogy. His passion for storytelling came from a love of listening to stories as a child from elders. Thomas has a Post graduate diploma in Child Mental health and a bachelor's degree in Education and is currently studying towards a Masters degree in Philosophy through Massey University.

Session Description

Māui – Legend of the Pacific The legend of Māui appears in many New Zealand Māori and Pacific Island stories through out Eastern Polynesia. Māui the demi-god remains a central character in the traditional customs and cultural practices of New Zealand Māori today. The stories of Māui weave an intricate pattern that provides important information about the origins of Māori through 'Whakapapa' or genealogy. This history is shared through an oral tradition that has been passed down through thousands of years and through many generations. This presentation will tell the story of Māui and celebrate a character that unites New Zealand Māori with its Eastern Polynesia roots

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

- Interactive - use of space to recreate and retell one of Maaui's stories interpreted through one's personal view of the story
- Will provide a meaningful context of the historical and contemporary significance to an indigenous peoples and their view of the world
- Learning and developing an appreciation of indigenous story telling from an oral tradition that has been passed down through the generations

Trisha Ellis and Carla Rogers

Sharing and creating our story of our sacred Mountains

Interaction Level



Trisha Ellis and Carla Rogers have worked together over the past 10 years, in a privileged and sometimes challenging role of working with the Yuin Nation and Aboriginal owners in the protection of two sacred Mountains on the Far South Coast of NSW. These mountains were amongst the first in Australia to be handed back to Aboriginal owners. Trisha is an inspiring Aboriginal owner and leader, who works with the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change in the role of joint management co-ordinator. Carla Rogers, has assisted DECCW and Yuin community transform their stories into practical land management policies and actions. Together with traditional owners, ancient stories have been told, the lessons drawn from these and new stories created. These stories have been told through song, art and narrative.

Session Description

Trisha and Carla look forward to sharing their stories and journey with you, and how story has been at the centrepiece of this significant land management arrangement. We will share and demonstrate the use of story at all levels and for all purposes, along with some very practical cultural sensitivities in the use of story.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

An amazing and powerful story and experience about the transformational power of story at all levels when working with indigenous communities. Some very practical tips and tools as well.



Presenter Topic – Authorship and the Ethics of Stories

Moya Sayer-Jones

Your story is safe with me

Interaction Level  LOW HIGH



Moya Sayer-Jones has written across media in Australia and internationally. She is a novelist with Penguin Books, a broadcaster(ABC radio) and a columnist for the Australian and UK press. She is well-known for her work as the original Modern Guru in the Good Weekend magazine (SMH & The Age 2000-2005). Three years years ago Moya formed a story company called Only Human Communication. OH works with Government, NFP and corporates and is highly regarded in the welfare, arts and health areas for their storybooks and story-based marketing approaches

Session Description

A 'hypothetical' type structure: exploring the role the story gatherer should play in best protecting the privacy and long term interests of the storyteller against un-informed assaults from... legal departments, marketing divisions, Comms departments, Government bodies, publishers...and of course, themselves!

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

An understanding of some best practice processes around story gathering across all media. The workshop will cover business organisations, Government, NFP agencies and community groups.

Alana Hulme Chambers

Whose Story Is It?

Interaction Level  LOW HIGH



Alana's background and passion lies within health promotion. Within this paradigm, Alana has worked in a variety of roles including strategy and policy development, social research and relationship management. The use of story to convey meaning has been woven into many of these roles, as well as being a key component of Alana's PhD. Her interests include applying the social determinants of health concepts to community based interventions, the health and wellbeing of rural young people, and the use of qualitative methods, particularly the use of story, in evaluation. She is a co-editor of the textbook 'Hands on Health Promotion'. Currently, Alana is engrossed in a project that is focusing on health promotion evaluation using story.

Session Description

Story telling and gathering is an emotional transaction. When we collect stories we are gathering information that is (usually) being given to us within circumstances involving trust, expectation, hope, and confidence. So what happens later when we document, recall and retell these stories? Does it matter if we 'clean' the story up? Can we embellish it if it helps make the story more powerful? This session will draw on participants to (1) explore their own beliefs around the gathering and retelling of stories, and (2) discuss the ethics surrounding the story gathering and retelling process.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Through lively discussion and debate, more knowledge around the ethics of documenting and retelling stories.



Presenter Topic – Different ways of knowing through Story

Jan Seneshen

Exploring the “System-or-Organisation-in-the-mind” through Drawing and Story

Interaction Level



Jan has a Masters Degree in Change Leadership and consults with individuals and groups in organisations to help them work with purpose and connection. Her work includes systems psycho-dynamics: the process of interpreting systems and their behaviour by getting in touch with underlying unconscious processes and beliefs within the system. Jan sees personal story as an interpretation and connection of the individual with the systems in which they live and work. She often uses story to help individuals and groups free themselves up from mis-interpretation that can sometimes hold them back from themselves, each other and their work and lives together.

Rob is a Senior Associate of Innovative Practice. He has had more than 10 years experience with an international management consulting firm and more than 8 years as an independent practitioner consulting in Australia, Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan), the U.K. and Africa.

Session Description

As individuals, we believe we are story driven. Our personal experiences and interpretations are shared with one another as story and are woven into other's stories. Through sharing our stories, we can expand, shift and change other's lives and work, as well as the very systems in which we live and work together.

The approach we will be taking helps people to get in touch with their own interpretation of the community or family system or organizational story within which they are now living and/or working.

The term “organisation (or system)-in-the-mind” is used to capture this sense of a mental world that we live in and that lives in us and to provide us with a resource for learning and meaning in life and work.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

A more holistic understanding of themselves and the system within which they are now living and/or working. A new connection with someone in the group.

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Presenter Topic – Different ways of knowing through Story

Lose the Plot

Understanding the power of playback

Interaction Level 



Lose the Plot is an improvisational theatre group that uses playback theatre to give body to your stories for fun, insight and training.

Our particular focus is on giving life to the various “voices” in our heads. Our skill is to empower participants to engage their own thinking and problem solving strategies rather than giving solutions. This allows participants to better understand their own feelings and inner conflicts and engage their own learning. We highlight the powerful emotions at the heart of everyday happenings and honour both the uniqueness and the common ground of human experience in each story we bring to life.

Lose the Plot group members have backgrounds in theatre, counselling, art therapy and group facilitation.

Session Description

Share your stories about everyday moments or tricky situations and we'll “play back” the stories live using physical theatre and improvisation techniques.

We present spontaneous, intuitive and heartfelt interpretations of stories and encourage you to shape and direct the action. You'll be surprised what comes up.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Participants will:

- Experience a demonstration of playback theatre
- Learn some simple improvisational tools that you can use in groups to enhance the power of story
- Gain an insight and language for describing people's “voices”
- Learn how playback:
 - a. Creates a safe environment for people to tell their stories
 - b. helps story tellers gain new insights and perspectives on their own stories
 - c. Provides a context for working with complex emotional material in a safe and fun environment

Julie Perrin

Before there were books there were stories: reclaiming the spoken word

Interaction Level 



Julie Perrin has been telling stories for 20 years. She says “I tell hardy folktales, holy fool tales and tales of human folly... mostly my own!” Julie offers storytelling performances and workshops for adults as well as residencies in schools. She helps establish a community of listening and teaches people to select and tell stories from their own experience as well as to re-tell traditional tales. Recently Julie has been working with Bi-lingual storytellers from the City of Hume in projects with student storytellers. Julie began her working life as a teacher of drama and English, her M.Ed thesis the Tale of One Teller was nominated for the Freda Cohen prize at Melbourne University. Julie now directs Tellingwords and her mission is to re-awaken people to the joy of telling stories from memory.
www.tellingwords.com.au

Session Description

Eco-philosopher David Abrams says “in order to re-store the world we need to re-story the world”. In this participatory workshop people will be encouraged practice telling a story from memory. Julie offers ways into waking up the underused muscle of memory and a place to practice listening and telling. See and hear examples of bi-lingual storytelling offering students traditional stories in their first language and observe a short video of student storytellers confidently taking the lead.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

People will leave with

- a small toolkit of ways to remember stories
- inspiration and motivation to tell their own experience
- insight into the power and role of traditional tales
- a new example of the significance of first language telling



Presenter Topic – Different ways of knowing through Story

Martin Challis

Three Chairs – ‘an integration of multiple perspectives to create a new way of knowing’

Interaction Level 



As an actor, educator and more recently as a coach and facilitator in organisational development with Performance Frontiers, I have a deep interest and passion in the creation of narrative and story well told. I have particular interest in using Story as a medium for change, as an enabler of collective voice and as a tool for creating metaphor, offering insight. Recently I completed a doctorate in Creative Industries entitled “Applied Critical Reflective Practice: the design, delivery and implementation of three creative projects: Raw Theatre, Scenestation and Three Chairs”. These projects involved the creation, dissemination and exploration of story respectively. Raw Theatre is used in actor training, where the replaying of actual events becomes foundational to the exploration of fictional possibilities. Scenestation operates as a website offering purpose written scenes for students of drama. Three Chairs offers workshop participants a new way of knowing their original story through the integration of multiple perspectives inherent within that story.

Session Description

The session invites participants to engage with and explore their own stories. Some may participate directly others may choose to observe. Participants select a story they wish to explore after using a reflective story sheet. Roles are cast and a slice of action is played out. Roles are reversed, played and replayed; players and audience make observations; insights are shared. The first chair locates the story-owner’s perspective, the second chair locates an opposing perspective within the story, and the third chair locates the integration of first and second: Three Chairs illuminates the new story that rises from the integration of opposing perspectives.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

They will leave uplifted having gained insights into themselves, others and the human condition by experiencing the emerging story that resides in the ability to integrate multiple perspectives in a state of compassion and creative tension.

Dr. John Donnelly

Building community story through consensus: the Ten Seed Approach

Interaction Level 



I work predominantly, but not exclusively, in international development in the areas of project design, monitoring and evaluation. Most of my work is with NGOs and local, remote communities with oral traditions and culture. All my work is qualitative with a degree of quantification obtained through the use of tools requiring consensus e.g. Ten Seed Technique. Through this process a community/population/group can build a story about itself in relation to an issue that it probably was not totally aware of. The main features of this process are, it’s communal, it provides anonymity (it does not identify individuals) and it is determined through consensus.

Session Description

The session will begin with a short explanatory session of the Ten Seed Technique (TST) and how it is used in community engagement and information collection; How the tool can be used for communities/populations to find out about themselves (collectively) and build their contemporary story; how the TST is used in evaluation and project design. Participants will then be invited to participate in an exercise using the TST. Issues around which the story/information regarding a group/population will relate to the interests and composition of the group.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Knowledge of a useful, user friendly community engagement tool which caters for all abilities and social status levels and actively encourages participation.



Presenter Topic – Different ways of knowing through Story

Cathryn Lloyd

Artful Inquiry through Digital Storytelling

Interaction Level 



I am researching and working in the field of arts-based learning. With a background in design and communication I am interested in building connections between art and business where art is used beyond decoration and entertainment and is integrated and used strategically for organisational and professional development. My work and research focuses on Artful Inquiry, a facilitation approach, which investigates how artful and creative processes can provide alternative ways of thinking, doing and seeing and can lead to transformation. The creative mediums act as a catalyst for dialogue, reflection, insight and change and stimulate the imagination. Within this context I am exploring the notion of storytelling through Digital Storytelling. The methodology and pedagogy of Digital Storytelling offers a co-creative experience.. As an approach to telling stories digital storytelling offers many possibilities and challenges. I'm excited about exploring it as an artful sense-making process that may provide new approaches and insights into an ancient and meaningful tradition.

Session Description

This session will draw on my doctoral research and professional practice exploring Artful Inquiry and Digital Storytelling. My 'session story' will reflect on research and work I am doing within a government women's network. The process is co-creative and designed to allow for emerging possibilities and change for both the participants and the facilitator/ researcher (me). The session will reflect on the women's personal and professional learning journeys and stories over the past few months and the creative processes used to facilitate and encourage reflection. This session will also be interactive and experiential as participants explore their stories through the artful methodologies and processes.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

An understanding and appreciation of Artful Inquiry and Digital Storytelling. An opportunity to reflect, explore, and value their own story. Share their story with others. Gain an appreciation of and for other people's stories. Know a little more about themselves and others. Be inspired. Have some fun.

Kim Fox

The Arts- creating visual stories as a way of coming to know...

Interaction Level 



Kim Fox is fascinated by the way in which we, as humans, make meaning in our lives and the many different ways there are of 'knowing.' She is currently conducting a Masters by Research (through MIECAT) into educators' experience of looking and listening. Inquiring into the ancient words from the Emerald Tablet (5000 bc): "As above, so below: As within, so without," she has worked with educators this year, exploring the many modes of Creative Arts as a means of accessing that which can be known. Through this Qualitative Arts-based research, educators have inquired into their experience of looking at and listening to their inner and outer worlds- creating visual stories through multi-modal journaling in response to these experiences. Kim's passion for fostering meaningful relationships has placed her in many roles in her career. She currently works with children teaching Creative Arts in a Melbourne Primary School- and loves it!!

Session Description

Those participating in this workshop will use creative arts as a way of exploring ways of knowing. We will begin with a shared experience, bringing presence and awareness to this. Using multi-modal representation, we will inquire into emergent knowings, accessing story in the quest of making meaning. We will look into stories held within our bodies by playing with some of the following: narrative; sound; movement; voice; dramatic enactments; monologue; construction; drawing; collage; music; poetry and dialogue. The approximations to meaning arrived at in the session will be represented in the form of the beginnings of a multi-modal journal.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?


- The experience of using the arts to inquire into experience
- The experience of coming to know through emergence
- Art work that they have created, that tells a visual story of what is meaningful to them.
- A positive feeling of having worked with a group in an open, supportive way.



Presenter Topic – Different ways of knowing through Story

Simon Kneebone

Letting pictures tell the story: creating visual stories

Interaction Level 



Simon Kneebone has been a cartoonist and illustrator for over 25 years. He has worked on a wide range of graphic projects, with the aim of communicating information and ideas effectively - with a touch of humour and fun. There are a number of practical things to consider when creating a cartoon, illustration, diagram, storyboard or whatever. These will be played with in the workshop - acknowledging the underlying purpose: what is the story we want to tell, and how best to communicate it. Visual story telling can be as dry as an instruction diagram, and it can be as confronting, compelling, hilarious, enlightening, inspiring and beautiful as your favourite picture book, graphic novel, animated film or newspaper cartoon. It all depends upon what you want to tell! Simon enjoys the challenge - and the playfulness - in getting pictures to tell the story.

Session Description

The session will be practical. Participants will explore and experiment with some basic ideas about creating visual stories. The emphasis will be on thinking visually, getting the story onto paper and then wrestling it into a form that will work. In the process we will see some of the potential that graphic storytelling has - as well as its limitations. An ability to draw is not important in this session.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

People would leave the session with a greater sense of the value of visual storytelling, as well as their ability to express their own stories in some graphic form. They will also have an awareness of the practicalities involved in making that graphic story work effectively for the reader. And in fact, there are times when that reader may only be themselves.

Meg Bishop and Graeme Gibson

Telling Your Story: a program for reviewing and refocusing your life

Interaction Level 



Meg Bishop and Graeme Gibson live on the south coast of NSW and have worked together, as Real Options, for over 12 years. Most of their work is in informal education, communication, group facilitation, and, increasingly, story telling.

Session Description

Life Review is a process based on guided autobiography which has its roots in narrative therapy. Life Review combines individual and group exercises and involves group members writing and sharing brief autobiographical life stories based on particular themes.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Life Review is a way of helping groups and individuals discover depth and meaning through sharing their stories in a safe environment. Workshop participants will understand the power of the process, and where it may be appropriate along with the logistics of how to plan, organize and set up a group.



Presenter Topic – Breaking the Silence, Giving Voice and Healing through Story

Ian David and Andrew Gray
Excavating and Disrupting Story

Interaction Level LOW HIGH



Ian David and Andrew Gray, from Melbourne Playback Theatre Company, are highly skilled experienced facilitators as well as trained actors, and have worked across all areas of the community, corporate, not for profit, and educational sectors. For the last few years both Ian and Andrew have been actively engaging with Emergent Process in their work, as a result of attending the New Zealand Playback Summer Schools (2006-8).

Session Description

In this workshop we'll investigate practical approaches to - unearthing the layers in any given story; viewing and embodying story from multiple perspectives; and, disrupting or breaking apart the story.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Improvising skills narrative practice, alternate modes for generating narrative. Emotional truth and depth in developing narrative Fun and joy a way through writers block New perspective on the same or familiar story

Anne Murphy
The burden of one's own story

Interaction Level LOW HIGH



Anne's background is in management consulting and corporate learning: writing and delivering courses around core consulting skills. She holds a Masters of Arts in Conflict Facilitation and Organisational Change from the Process Work Institute in Oregon. She is most energetic when focused on listening to, supporting, and encouraging others, and building community in organisational settings. She enjoys helping individuals and teams to navigate challenging situations because it takes her beyond herself. She is passionate about her work; it pulls her together. There is no better way to describe why she does what she does.

Session Description

Bearing the Burden of One's Own Story
It is difficult for a person returning to the workplace after suffering a personal tragedy. The typical reaction of colleagues is to avoid any potentially upsetting topics; the individual must bear the burden of their own story. Disinterest of co-workers is mostly borne of not knowing what to say, more than a reluctance to hear the story. This workshop will cover welcoming tragic stories into the office: Listening spectrum , Asking appropriate questions, Acknowledging and affirming, Following feedback

While the stories of our more distressing experiences are without an audience they are relegated to remaining abnormal incidents.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Knowledge of how to create a welcome space for the person and their 'difficult' experience. Knowledge of alternatives to the standard "I don't know what to say..." that will help to normalise unusual or distressing episodes.

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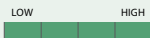
Presenter Topic – Breaking the Silence, Giving Voice and Healing through Story

Russell Deal

When Words Steal Stories



Interaction Level



Russell is a social work publisher. He works with a number of graphic artists to create conversation-building artifacts that employ visual metaphors. He remains fascinated with the power of creative arts to transform lives. When not writing or running workshops he builds dry stone walls. He married a hospitality/food science teacher so after 36 years of marriage, 2 kids, and 2 grand kids, he has finally decided it's time he learned another creative art - cooking. He is a slow learner.

Session Description

Western rhetoric (the art of using language) can be traced back to Aristotle. It is socially constructed and culture bound. It imposes structure on stories and assumes a particular 'intelligence' - the way we experience and understand the world. Theories of multiple Intelligences argue that there are a number of ways of interacting with the world. People from oral cultures or people with alternative intelligences may story their lives visually.

This interactive workshop explores the power of visual and kinesthetic metaphor that are examples of expressive therapies that are increasingly being incorporated into human services to avoid the disadvantage, colonising, and silencing of folk who story in non-linguistic ways. We will use a range of visual and tactile metaphors, explore left field therapies including chess therapy and experience wordless conversations such as the Stone Game.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

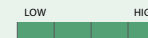
Experience of using visual metaphor, with or without words, to demonstrate, alternatives to the structure of culturally scripted story telling. Recognition of how purely linguistic, sequential, story telling can disadvantage, colonise and silence. Some practical, readily useable skills. Some touches of inspiration. Some chuckles if not belly laughs. Having learned to play the Stone Game

Christine Carlton

Stories Waiting To Be Told



Interaction Level



Christine Carlton has worked for over twenty years as a freelance Consultant, Facilitator and Educator in Story, Drama and Creative Arts in Education, Business and Community Development. She travels Australia and overseas offering opportunities for individuals and organisations to tap into their creativity to gain insight and direction for their lives and their communities. Christine lectures in Story and Drama in Education at University of Western Sydney; facilitates leadership and team-building processes; offers trainers and teacher inservice, storytelling workshops, reflective retreats and is regularly called upon to provide creative leadership and group facilitation at national and international conferences.

Session Description

Stories are the storehouses of meaning. Whether stories are told around the campfire, in the pub, at the kitchen table or in the staff room, boardroom or waiting for a bus, they contain all that is in life – the humorous and sad, the real and imaginary, the simple and complex. Everyone is a keeper of stories and some stories are just waiting to be told. When and where do we tell our stories? What stories inspire and challenge us? This interactive workshop will look at the power of Story to educate, entertain, heal, nurture Spirituality, transform lives, business and build community.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

- an appreciation of the formative and transforming power of story
- an insight into the wisdom within stories
- a sense of delight in having engaged in story listening and telling
- an invitation to think more about the criteria we use when choosing and crafting stories to tell.



Presenter Topic – Breaking the Silence, Giving Voice and Healing through Story

Hilde Knottenbelt

Creative Voice: Bringing our Voices and Stories to Life through Improvised Singing and Spoken Word

Interaction Level 



Originally a teacher of languages and subsequently a shiatsu practitioner, voice teacher and psychodramatist, Hilde Knottenbelt has been teaching vocal improvisation and story singing since 1987. She has an ongoing love of exploring sound, words, attunement, expressiveness, co-creativity and improvised singing and storytelling in groups. As a psychodramatist, she has developed her ability to work with an unfolding process combining the acappella tradition of unaccompanied harmony singing, storytelling, psychodrama, playback theatre, group work and body-focused therapies. The creative integration of these influences continues to inform and contribute to the weaving of a unique body of work. Hilde is on the teaching staff of the Australian College of Psychodrama. She has taught sessionally at the Melbourne Institute of Experiential and Creative Arts Therapy in the Graduate Diploma and Masters Programs. After years of working with the ephemeral, she is currently experimenting with the possibilities of combining vocal improvisation with recording.

Session Description

Sound and singing, with and without words, offer a means to give voice to the breadth of the human psyche. When we engage playfully and experimentally with our voices we enter the world of sound, listening, silence, resonance, dissonance, harmony and story. This three hour workshop will involve participants in a vocally creative approach to working with personal story. You'll be engaged in improvising co-created vocal treats including acappella style harmonies, haiku voice pictures, and tabla inspired polyrhythms. Expect to sing and use spoken word to work with stories emerging from the group.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

People would leave feeling enlivened having generated embodied experiences of their own voices. They would be alive to the connections between their voices and the voices of others, and would have an appreciation for the possibilities of working co-creatively with sound and vocal improvisation in the context of storytelling.

Phillip Corbett

Putting Story Telling Into Action With Psychodrama

Interaction Level 



Phillip is an advanced trainee at the Australian College of Psychodrama. He has presented workshops for several years at the annual ANZPA psychodrama conferences in Australia and New Zealand. For three years he has been using psychodrama methods in Lalor with a group for people experiencing anxiety and depression. Phillip also has a background in theatre as a writer, actor and director and believes that psychodrama is a marriage of theatre and therapy, putting words into action in the here and now.

Session Description

In this session you will have the opportunity to put your own story into action in the here and now in a safe and supportive environment. You will also have the opportunity to be an auxiliary in someone else's story or 'drama' in psychodrama parlance which gives you the rich experience of walking a while in another's shoes.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

They would have an expanded understanding of their own life experience having enacted their story, bringing to life in a safe group setting words and actions previously unexpressed. They would also have an increased empathy with the other group members who shared in the rich exchange of life stories.



Presenter Topic – Breaking the Silence, Giving Voice and Healing through Story

Dr. Tom Schwarz and Colleen Guray
Story to Silence, Story to heal



Interaction Level

Dr. Tom Schwarz is a Consulting Facilitator helping organizations, teams and people unfetter and realize their aspirations and potential - focusing around facilitative leadership and management development, and team effectiveness and creativity.. He is a Certified Professional Facilitator (International Association of Facilitators - IAF) and CPF Assessor, with broad formal and informal facilitation, training and Consulting background and experiences in diverse Multi-Cultural settings.

Colleen is the developer of the Soft Skills Assessment ©, a profiling that uncovers individual and organisational blind spots. The conversations that follow allow an ongoing exploration of the two questions it is necessary to address in order for change to occur: what is it about me that keeps the system stuck? What is it about the system that keeps me stuck?

Colleen works with teams and managers to articulate vision, values and purpose and to translate these into organisational practices.

Session Description

Peoples' stories of trauma can convey unremitting savagery and despair, making such story telling an act of cruelty – who do we need to be to ensure it becomes an act of compassion ? We assert that the healing comes about in the relationship between teller and listener, and both are necessary players. The workshop explores psychodramatically the following: • What happens in the telling of a story? • What does it take for healing to occur? • How / why do we stop healing / hearing? And how do we notice? • How can we keep the healing/hearing going?

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Participants will gain

- An increased capacity to notice what is and what is not being conveyed in the story
- A heightened sense of their responsibilities in delivering compassionate outcomes in stories
- Insights into the roles and dynamics of healing story-telling

Debra Driscoll, Jen Barrkman, Kris Plowman
Creative Engagement with Story



Interaction Level

Red Thread Stories is a Brisbane based consultancy that enables people to talk listen and learn through their shared stories. We offer training workshops and creative interventions to business, government and community organisations and their clients. Our partners have experience in training, business management, psychology, community development, alternative health and environmental science. Our varied backgrounds enable us to meet the needs of diverse organisations and communities. We believe stories are an important tool to enrich our understanding of ourselves, our community, work team, or organisation. We are passionate about creating inclusive spaces which enable people to listen and safely share stories. We focus on creative and interactive ways of doing this. "For a group or community to exist they must have a shared story."

Session Description

Our aim is for participants to better understand how personal story can be used and applied as a learning tool for groups and communities. Participants will engage with the processes and applications of story designed by Red Thread Stories. The learning will be directly related to the DOING! Our work is inclusive, interactive and embodied. Participants will be given the opportunity to share and listen to stories. The workshop will incorporate reflection where the learning and applications of our processes will be discussed.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

An interactive demonstration of techniques, which can be applied when using personal stories as a discovery and learning tool. Including: hosting and introducing participants; developing an inclusive environment; encouraging and supporting story tellers; the importance of listening; ways of reflecting and responding to one another .

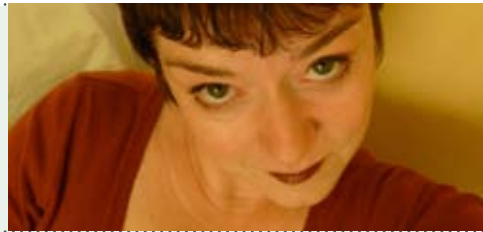


Presenter Topic – Breaking the Silence, Giving Voice and Healing through Story

Cindy Tonkin

Sing it - songs and story

Interaction Level 



Cindy Tonkin is the Consultants' Consultant. She has a background in Linguistics, NLP and more than 20 years experience as a corporate consultant and trainer. Cindy has been improvising for 10 years, and formed Ludic Creative in 2006 to help organisations use improvisation to build new ways of working when they restructure or change leadership teams. Her client base is broad ranging, and in the past few years includes CBA, Toyota Financial Services, the Cancer Council of Victoria, NSW Police and DOCs. She sings, improvises and paints as well.

Session Description

For centuries we have told stories in song. Come hear songs that tell stories, sing one you already know, write one with us. This is an interactive and tuneful workshop, and anyone with a voice and a hankering after a good story is welcome to come along and listen and participate.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

A buzz; a sense of love and fun; euphoric, deep-thinking and resonances through the next few weeks of their life and beyond.

Dr Gary Wohlman

Freeing Stories through the Muscle Memories of our Bodies

Interaction Level 



Improvisational Storyteller, Professional Court Jester, Transformational Presentation Coach, Body Therapist & Awakening Creativity artist, Dr Gary Wohlman has been dedicated to freeing people's fullest expression through the body as the chief instrument of communication for nearly 40 years. Dr Gary travels the world integrating his multi-sensory approach to generating live presentation breakthroughs with his own unique, refreshing style. He integrates the latest accelerated learning techniques with Psychodrama, voice dialogue, affirmations spoken whispered and sung, and much much more ~ all in service of liberating all participant's abilities to walk their talk, free their inner story and celebrate a renewing Glory! For more info, visit: www.garywohlman.com

Session Description

In this highly interactive audience participatory session, Dr Gary will guide us all on an adventure through our bodies, and awaken a deeper connection for all of us to the Muse within. Through his whimsical, theatrical and playfully articulate style, we will pave pathways to bring our confidence, physical presence, and rapport building skills out into the open ~ to enhance our individual abilities to recognise and reweave our story, to share our message, our deepest longings and visions most effectively with ourselves and our audiences throughout all stages of our lives...

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

People will leave with a renewed connection between their thinking, speaking and actions ~ with a revitalised ability to translate ideas, intention and dialogue into a story that creates maximum impact. Participants will be shown tools to assist in matching their message with their movements and spoken delivery. Participants will also leave feeling empowered to take a stand for their lives as never before.

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Presenter Topic – Breaking the Silence, Giving Voice and Healing through Story

Shirley O'Toole
The story in song



Interaction Level LOW HIGH

I started working with story through the ritual of Playback Theatre over ten years ago and I am still fascinated by the power that Playback has to build and heal communities through the sharing of stories. As a singer/songwriter I have seen the transformative quality of sound, music and song. I have developed an abbreviated form from Playback Theatre that incorporates conducting and music and which I call musical storytelling. Giving voice to people's experiences of life is profoundly moving and enriching.

Session Description

The session includes: getting present to self and others, hearing me, hearing you, what is the sound of what I am feeling expressing? putting others' stories into song synthesising the issues, expressing issues through song.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

Participants would leave with: an experience of the power of song in healing personal and social woundedness. deeper listening skills, empathy, and a tool to use in their work.

Mark Gordon
A narrative approach -
how stories contribute to healing



Interaction Level LOW HIGH

Bringing together an interest in narrative practices and work with individuals, families and groups, Mark presents a passionate invitation to consider how we respond to stories of struggle and adversity.

Session Description

Focusing on work with individuals struggling with life threatening problems and group work with aboriginal men, Mark will share how our work in a range of different contexts can be sites of possibility and richness. Through practices of double listening, therapeutic documents and attention to the scaffolding of less familiar stories of life, this workshop carefully navigates through how 'story' can reinvigorate our experience of the work we do and for those who consult us.

If people got the best of your session, what would they leave with?

A greater understanding of how the stories people share with us can be carefully responded to.

