



The Down Under Institute 2010

*“Creating Opportunities For
Full
Lives For All”*

11 – 15 April 2010 in Lismore NSW

Purpose: The Down Under Institute 2010 is about creating opportunities for full lives for all. We cannot do this alone. We need to build and rebuild communities where we all belong, connect, contribute, and are full participating members. Through the Institute we will be collaborating to understand, strengthen, and create opportunities so citizenship is for everyone; where all means ALL; and where everyone’s gifts are welcomed and flourish. “More of the same” is not good enough.

Down Under Institute 2010 will be a hands-on reflective investigation and exploration where participants will reflect on what they know, listen to each other, create personalized action ‘prototypes’, and engage in active and reflective exercises which invite everyone to create their most desirable futures.

Our Aim: Is that we all celebrate our learning together and at the end of our time we leave renewed, refreshed, and re-energized to continue our work of strengthening community. We’ll do that through a thoughtful balance of ‘work’ and having some fun together.

Outcomes: If you show up, are present and mindful, share your truth as you know it, and let go of preconceived notions, you could leave with ~

- ✓ your network expanded with new colleagues and friends
- ✓ deepened understanding and relationships with people you already knew
- ✓ new knowledge, skills, and tools for change
- ✓ some new ways of thinking about the work you do and ways to carry that thinking forward in your own practices
- ✓ a sharper awareness of your personal commitment to building rich, inclusive communities

Where: Site host for the Down Under Institute 2010 is Multitask Human Resource Foundation. Multitask will serve as the hub for our community for the week. A few words from Multitask:

“We would like to welcome people from across Australia and New Zealand to the first Down Under Institute Australia. We are proud to be host organisation and wish all participants an enjoyable, informative, and most importantly fun time at the institute. Multitask Human Resource Foundation is an organisation that provides training and support services for people with disabilities on the North Coast of NSW.

Our services aim is to increase the independence of people with disabilities through supporting them to make informed choices about the way they wish to live their lives, and by providing them with the skills and support they need to make this a reality.”

Our Community: THE most important part of the Down Under Institute 2010 IS the community that we’ll create while we’re together. Like any community, it will take many people in a wide variety of roles to help it thrive. Storytellers will start off our mornings. Many people will contribute as facilitators, reflecting their unique gifts, skills, passions, and experiences. There will be any number of people who will graciously and skillfully tend to the array of activities that are often referred to as ‘hospitality’. Leadership will come from throughout the room; responsibilities of management will be clear so as to make it all come together smoothly. EVERYONE has to contribute – there will be more details to come in following newsletters sent to registered participants.

Format: You may very well find that the Down Under Institute 2010 is quite a different experience than you’ve had in Australia before! The Down Under Institute 2010 is NOT a conference. While there will be some themes, practices, and content introduced and hosted by noted and respected leaders, much of the content of the institute unfolds as the result of conversations that the community has throughout the week. As an Institute participant, there will be daily opportunity for you to choose area(s) in which to focus to deepen your understanding and personal practices. The Institute relies heavily on its

members' individual and collective wisdom. This happens through members contributing their questions and reflections, thoughts and visions. There will be a variety of processes employed throughout the week to invite and facilitate sharing via paired, small group, and whole community conversations. Tips, hints, and recommendations will be offered as well through newsletters to registered participants as the Institute date approaches.

Introductions: Here are some of the people who have signed on in a few of the roles of the Institute.

M.C: Tim Childs – Lismore;

Storytellers: Adrian Thorn – Queensland; Joanne Page – Victoria; Heather - Victoria;

Module leaders:

Family Leadership - Connie Lyle O'Brien USA, Amanda Bell, Lov-Dane USA; Julie Simpson, Parent to Parent Qld/Pathways to Leadership Qld; Janet Sands, PlaNet SA;

Deepening Practice - Graphics, Listening and Facilitation; Lynda Kahn, Inclusion Press CAN; Jack Pearpoint , Inclusion Press CAN;

John O'Brien, Responsive Systems Associates USA; Connie Lyle O'Brien, Responsive Systems Associates USA;

Asset Based Community Development & Social Inclusion - Ted Smeaton, Inspiring Communities NSW; Marg Donaldson SA, Ingrid Burkett, International Association for Community Development; Lynda Millington / Karen Gillum, Interactionz NZ.

Planning Committee:

Annette Mayer, Parent to Parent Qld; Mark Patterson, National Council of Intellectual Disability NSW; Sherrie Anderson, *annecto Vic*; Liz Gehering, Multitask Human Resource Foundation NSW; Leanne Pearman, My Place WA; Michaela Kennedy, Sunnyfield NSW; Tom Ringrose NZ, Christine Scott, VALID Vic; Guna Adens, National Council of Intellectual Disability ACT; Julie Simpson, Parent to Parent Qld/Pathways to Leadership Qld; Heather Simmons, Perth Home Care Services WA, Lynda Millington, Interactionz NZ.

Program: A quick-glance version follows. It provides a basic framework for each day, much of the content is developed at the Institute. More information about updates and content specifics will be made available through three information newsletters that will follow between now and the date of the Institute. Additional information about module content and biographical information about

module leaders can be found on the Down Under Institute 2010 website (www.dui2010.org.au).

	Morning session	Afternoon session	Evening session
Sunday 11 th April 2010	Registration Opens at 10:30 am until 1:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Ceremony • What brings us together – a <i>Community Conversation</i> • Introduction to the practices we'll be using through the institute • Hear brief descriptions about the module topics planned for the week. • Hear about other focus areas that participants want to spend time with over the week • Orientation to our Learning Market Place ~ instructions you'll need for Monday 	Light dinner and conversation provided at venue.
Monday 12 th	• Welcome and opening story	• Create our agenda in the	• Optional evening activities ~

April 2010

- Announcements for the day
- *Introducing Theory U*
- A search for the best in us ~ *conversation using Appreciative Inquiry*
- A vision for future ~ *using journaling*
- Lunch provided at venue

Learning Market Place ~ *using Open Space principles*

- Modules begin.

Module 1: (O'Brien & Lyle-O'Brien)

Module 2: Deepening Practice – Graphics, Facilitation and Listening (Kahn & Pearpoint)

Module 3: A Way of Creating Inclusive Communities – Building the Bridge. Asset Based Community Development & Family Leadership (Smeaton; Simpson; Sands; Burkett; Lyle-O'Brien)

Module 4: Under consideration

- Sharing and gathering our learning from today ~ *beginning our harvest*

May include things like no-host dinners and socials, in-venue movies, games or music options, local entertainment, and a community service project.

<p>Tuesday 13th April 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and opening story • Announcements for the day • Modules continue throughout the morning • Lunch provided at venue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Marketplace starts • Sharing and gathering our learning from today ~ <i>continuing our harvest</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional evening activities
<p>Wednesday 14th April 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and opening story • Announcements for the day • Modules continue throughout the morning • Lunch provided at venue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Marketplace continues • Sharing and gathering our learning from today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Gathering and Celebration Barbeque: <i>In Spirit of the "Rainbow Region"</i>
<p>Thursday 15th April 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and opening story • Announcements for our day • Reflections from our experiences ~ <i>using World Café</i> • Strengthening your own community ~ What are your steps forward? 		

How to Register:

Registration details and instructions can be found on The Down Under Institute 2010 website (www.dui2010.org.au) under the “register here” tab. The \$900 registration fee covers tuition, a light welcome reception on Sunday evening, morning tea each day, lunches at the venue Monday through Wednesday, afternoon tea each day, and a community celebration barbeque Wednesday evening. The fee includes all materials you’ll need to fully participate during the week. There are a limited number of sponsorships available for eligible participants.

It is important to note that to maximize the outcomes for participants there is an enrollment limit for this event. It is strongly recommended that you complete your registration and payment process promptly to secure your opportunity to participate.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who should come to the Institute? Past Institute participants have included educators, community development workers, human services managers, environmental activists, youth leaders, health promotion workers, family members, advocates, students of all ages, literacy workers, social workers, therapists, adult educators, workers of all kinds. If you are a community member, then you are invited to come.

Can I come to just part of the Institute? Sorry, but no. It is an immersion experience, designed from beginning to end to provide participants what they need, both as individuals and as a group, to experience a rich and supportive learning experience.

Does it really start on Sunday? Well yes. The activities on Sunday ‘set the stage’ and begin our experience of forming our community for the week. This is where participants will, as a community, shape what the experience of the week is to be and how we’ll work together to make it so. It’s vital and essential time and it happens Sunday afternoon and evening.

Can I get a more detailed course outline? With the design of the Institute, there will be a creative agenda built throughout the week. Your personal course outline emerges from the choices you make among sessions offered by host faculty and offerings in the learning marketplace. Frameworks for the program can be found on the website.

What should I bring? Most important is that you come with an open heart and mind. Come willing to offer your gifts of imagination, creativity, openness, honesty, courage, and compassion. We will use journaling in our time together so if you may wish to bring your favorite (or even some brand new) journal and writing implements to record your thoughts and ideas. (Basic journals and pens will be available for anyone who didn’t bring a

personal favorite one). Comfortable clothes are recommended. Lismore is part of the Northern Rivers region of NSW, which is popularly referred to as the “Rainbow Region”. We’ll be celebrating that theme for the community celebration dinner on Wednesday night. Please pack “colorful” clothes for the dress for that night. It’s light-hearted and good fun in nature.

Environmental Considerations:

Wise use of our shared resources is a key consideration and is one of the practices we have committed to be mindful about throughout our Institute experience. We’ll invite and urge everyone associated with the Institute to be very thoughtful of this all along their journey. We’ll challenge AND support each other to make the lightest footprint a group of 150 people can make. More specific information and requests in regards to this to follow in the newsletters.

For More Information:

Most of the information that you need is reflected here. Additional information about travel and accommodation recommendations can be found on The Down Under Institute website: www.DUI2010.org.au. Information will be added to the website in the weeks leading up to the event. If you still need information, you can phone Jen Copelin on (02) 6627 5036 or Mobile 0428 441 297. Jen is the liaison person for the Down Under Institute and is able to support people to get whatever information you need.

This Institute is an adventure in learning; this is learning ‘on the edge’. Join us and together we will build a better tomorrow!

