



EVOLVE

A REPORT FROM THE AFN CONFERENCE NELSON,
NEW ZEALAND 2009



Carla Rogers, EVOLVE



Exploring The Meeting Marketplace™: Innovations in large group facilitation and engagement

Carla Rogers and Nigel Russell, NSW

SESSION DESCRIPTION AND THIS REPORT

This marketplace™ explores the exquisite tension experienced at the facilitation tipping point, creating ripples with focus and flow! The Marketplace™ is the bow wave of large group facilitation. Picture yourself immersed in this live marketplace -colour, movement, action, people talking, humour, noise, and most of all diversity. Meeting marketplace™ is fun, informal, and participatory, enabling the expression and exploration of diversity while yielding valid and rich information you can take away and use immediately. Be inspired and stimulated, feel connected and creative in this live marketplace™ as you explore a co-designed, challenging tipping point topic that will stretch all facilitators.

This report captures the rich information generated through the meeting marketplace at Nelson.

THE THEME QUESTION

Imagine that you arrive back to work on Monday, inspired, fearless, ready to work with focus and flow. . In this 'preferred future:

- I. What would you be doing differently?
- II. What would others around you be doing differently?
- III. On a scale of 0 to 10, where '10' represents the preferred future and 0 as far from it as you can get, where do you think your work/life sits now?
- IV. What is one thing that needs to happen at this conference to help you boldly step towards 10?
- V. What is one thing that you could do differently on Monday to help you boldly step towards 10?

THE STATIONS



STATION 1 – Welcome and Orientation

Also mark on the map where you live.



STATION 2 – Global Cafe

Hosted by NoMadMeetings (Nigel Russell) this is your chance to connect with other passionate AFN'ers who could not be here in person.



STATION 3 – Graffiti Wall

Respond to the key questions in your own time.



STATION 4 – Art Express

Use Picture Cards and craft materials to capture and express your response to the key themes/questions.



STATION 5 – Speed Dating Facilitator Style

An opportunity to explore the key questions in discussion with others, to build on ideas and obtain a 'snapshot' on what people are thinking.

THE RESULTS

In the 'Preferred Future', others would be:



- Turning our best ideas into reality
- Focussing on possibilities
- Being positive and enthusiastic about new ideas/ways of being
- Asking me how the conference was and really listening, with time to want to know and understand
- Having AHA moments
- Helping creating a path that is sound - and we stick to it
- Inviting and valuing creative solutions and participation
- Asking good questions
- Open to new ideas and actions

- Loosening the control'
- More collaborative, working outside our silos
- Opening up to new suggestions
- Hearing one another
- Incorporating process design and process review into the everyday
- Seek to participate
- Telling Stories
- Listening with an open heart
- Leaning into the groan zone
- Working with great integrity and purpose
- Valuing each other and clients
- Valuing diversity
- Welcoming creative approaches
- Being Clear
- Happy to take risks
- Letting go of barriers
- Committed to goals



I would be.....



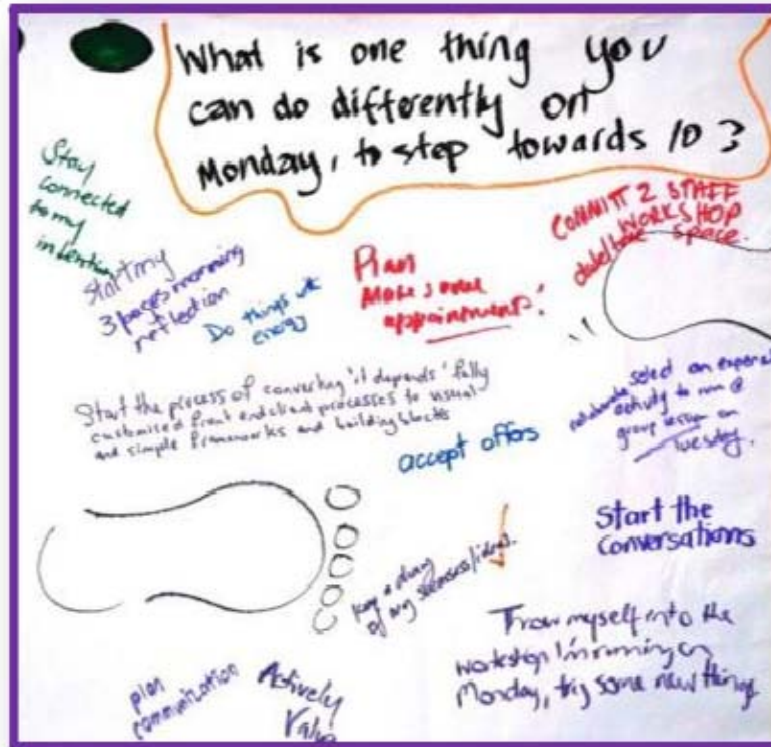
- Putting myself out there more
- Being fearless and trusting
- Really working effectively as a facilitator in the groan zone
- Risky Stuff
- Contracting to let go, trust the process
- Taking risks
- Trusting in myself
- Loving
- Relax
- Generous
- Modelling collaboration
- Embracing being patient
- Asking more
- Making it safe to shine
- Not sure
- Designing my preferred future
- Speaking up and out
- Blinking!
- Being Open to Others
- Engaging the client more in the design phase
- Contracting more carefully and directly with the client
- Making contact more frequent
- Doing less, thinking more
- Listening

One thing that needs to happen at this conference to help me boldly step towards 10?.....



- Trusting the process more
- New buddies
- Make enduring connections with like minded facilitators, and with facilitators who work in different and complementary ways
- Networking practice
- Plan, Process, Perform, Creativity
- Inspired by others stories
- Less emphasis on career and more on laughing, singing, creative life in daily life
- Make a plan - think!
- Drop pre-conceived ideas, based on past experience
- Listen to stories
- Open doors
- More collaboration with other facilitators
- Listening and becoming clearer about my priorities, as a result of hearing others experiences
- Believe in my ways of process
- New ways to engage with others

One thing that I can do differently on Monday so that I can boldly step towards 10?.....



- Listen deeply to peers
- Stay connected in my intention
- Starting 3 pages morning reflection
- Pose good questions
- Do things with energy
- Ask questions which engender ownership
- Plan, make some appointments
- Commit to staff workshop space
- Some strategic visits
- Start the process of converting 'it depends' fully customised front end client processes to visual and simple frameworks and building blocks
- Accept offers
- Try stuff
- Select an experiential and collaborative activity to run a group session on Tuesday
- Start the conversations
- Start the 1st Chapter of the book in my head
- Plan communication
- Actively Value
- Keep a diary of my stresses/ideas
- Throw myself into the workshop that I am running on Monday, try some new things
- Schedule time to redesign our facilitator training so it is how we want it to be

