

# The Listening Well

## The Art and Practice of Circle and Storycatching

*Leadership includes the skills to elicit and respond effectively to the stories of those around us.*

Discovering people's stories is essential to sustaining relationships, residing in community, and working together. Story provides the foundation for how we organise ourselves to get life's business done. In an increasingly complex world – where texting and email are often our primary means of communication – the practice of sitting down together and putting ourselves intentionally into a narrative context is an essential leadership skill.

**Circle** is the practice of creating space where every voice is heard. It is the study of listening as much as it is the practice of speaking.

**Story** offers us a way to hear what's really being said; a means to recognize and appreciate the essence of identity; and a way of knowing that we know each other.



**Woven together, circle and story facilitate a deep shift in how we come together in groups to hear each other, especially in times of change and transition.**

Please join us – **Deirdre Downie and Diana Coverdale** – who have invited **CHRISTINA BALDWIN & ANN LINNEA** (author and co-founder of PeerSpirit Inc.), – to guide a day of practice and skill-building in the art of circle and story.



We invite you to attend this workshop to:

- Experience** – Circle and Storycatching as two complementary methodologies that can be powerfully woven together;
- Learn** - The essence of each methodology and the art of adapting circle and story in different contexts;
- Extend** – The network of practitioners who are utilizing these methods and supporting one another in furthering their use.

**Christina Baldwin** - founded the journal writing movement with her first book in the 1970s and she has been exploring story as leadership throughout her career. This training day is based on two titles: *The Circle Way, A Leader in Every Chair* (co-authored with Ann), and *Storycatcher, Making Sense of our Lives through the Power and Practice of Story* (recommended readings). She and Ann are world elders in circle and story who have taught in North America, Europe, and Africa and are delighted to be visiting Australia.

**Ann Linnea** is a pioneer in environmental awareness and earth stewardship. She is the author of the educational and award winning *Teaching Kids to Love the Earth*, and most recently her legacy book, *Keepers of the Trees*. Ann joined with Christina to develop PeerSpirit Circle Process and they

have taught together since 1991. For complete information on their contributions and professional breadth and products see their websites: [www.peerspirit.com](http://www.peerspirit.com) & [www.storycatcher.net](http://www.storycatcher.net).

*They are joined by Melbourne colleagues:*

- **Deirdre Downie** – engages with individuals, organizations, and communities to co-create new ways of working together: reweaving the container for more meaningful conversations. Email: [djdownie@insightnow.com.au](mailto:djdownie@insightnow.com.au) mobile: 0412 211 681.
- **Diana Coverdale** – is a leadership and personal development consultant, psychotherapist, and Storycatcher. She enjoys co-creating the awakening and living of new stories for individuals and groups using circle as both container and receptacle for wisdom. Email: [diana@gatewaydc.com.au](mailto:diana@gatewaydc.com.au) mobile: 0412 162 053

## VENUE & REGISTRATION:

**DATE:** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2010

**LOCATION:** We will meet in the Community Room at the [ABBOTSFORD CONVENT](#), located 4 kms from the Melbourne CBD at 1 St. Heliers Street, Abbotsford. The convent is surrounded by gardens near the Yarra River and will hold this day in beauty and serenity, an extraordinary place for co-creating the new story.

**COST:** \$ AU395, includes tuition, lunch, morning and afternoon teas.

**Payment options: Early Bird:** payment of \$AU350 by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September, or payment of \$AU395 by November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**To register send cheque to Insight Now, PO Box 1107, Fitzroy North, Vic. 3068 or by direct banking to bsb 033067, account # 224536, Insight Now.**

### We welcome you -

**Practitioners, leaders, organisers, writers, educators, managers, poets - anyone with a story in your heart and desire to foster the spaces for speaking and listening.**

