

**As facilitators what guides when & how we intervene in groups?
What are we noticing in others?
What is in our awareness of ourselves?**



Understanding group functioning using aesthetic / intuitive senses

Join Dr George Wills & Rhonda Tranks for this one-day workshop on Tues 24 May '16

* This pre-conference workshop is offered in conjunction with the International Association of Facilitators' Oceania Conference 25-27 May in Melbourne. The conference theme is "Pushing the Boundaries".

About the workshop

Our understanding of group functioning is enhanced by accessing and acting upon our aesthetic and intuitive senses as they arise at the time, in the group.

Rhonda and George presume that facilitating and working with groups cannot be reduced to a set of prescriptive principles, replicated by facilitators and participants.

Instead, we will be supporting group members to be faithful to their sensory awareness and intuitions – what is happening here and now in the group and for you personally. We will attend to personal, interpersonal and group dynamic issues and monitor changes in thought, feeling and behaviour. Underpinning this is the work of Carl Rogers who asked us to be a mirror to our clients while being intuitively present to ourselves.

As a member of this group you will experience leadership that is minimally directive, along the lines of Irvin Yalom's Humanist-Existential approach.

Workshop participants will be encouraged to be respectful, empathic, concrete and immediate in their expressions. As the workshop proceeds, a focus on the experience of individual members will be balanced with reflections on group processes and the group dynamics that emerge.

"Group Work" provides participants with an opportunity to attend to personal, interpersonal and group dynamic issues and to monitor changes in thought, feeling and behaviour. The processes will inform participants of the experience of group leadership and facilitation. Personal material is always involved.

We will be assisting participants to: observe what is going on in others; switch attention to their own internal processes and find helpful ways to express one's self. As the group progresses we expect a sharpening of awareness of one's internal referents and the group dynamics that may emerge.

The conference program has this workshop categorised as:

- "self-development": *pushing your own boundaries*—exploring and developing yourself as a person and facilitator and,
- "deep dive": *a deeper dive* into who you are and how you work with groups – expect to be challenged.

When: Tuesday 24 May 2016, 9:00 – 5:00

Where: Engineers Australia, Level 31, 600 Bourke Street. Melbourne

Fee: just \$395 for IAF members and \$465 for non-members. Includes refreshments and lunch

More Information the Conference: For more information visit this page of the conference website <http://iaf-oceania.org/Session/pre-conference-understanding-group-functioning-using-aestheticintuitive-senses/>

Register: Go to the website page above from there you can register on-line

Book Now: The group size is capped, so don't miss out by leaving your registration to the last minute.

About the workshop leaders



Dr George Wills has over 40 years' experience in personal development group participation and leadership. He was the originator then Co-Director of the Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programs in Counselling Psychology at LaTrobe University, retiring from there in 2006. In that time he taught Group Leadership along the lines of Irvin Yalom, and Gerard Egan and Emotion-Focussed Therapy developed by Robert Elliott and Les Greenberg. He has taken courses with each of these people and sponsored visits to Australia by Robert Elliott. Each of these approaches to group facilitation have been strongly influenced by the work of Carl Rogers.

George was, and remains, struck by the powerful effect of being with someone who is an accurate mirror and he endeavours to be that way, himself, when the circumstances call for it.

George's work is also strongly influenced by Zen Buddhism. He has been a practitioner of Zen since 1974 when first exposed to it at the San Francisco Zen Centre, originated by D.T. Suzuki. Since 1975, his principle teacher has been Geoff Dawson of The Ordinary Mind Zen School, based in Sydney.

In a general sense, George's orientation is best described as humanist-existential, which means that people are condemned to the freedom to be themselves and to manage in spite of never fully knowing. George encourages people to learn to be true to their own ways of being as a viable alternative.



Rhonda Tranks is a CPF and an IAF Assessor. She has run workshops at IAF conferences in South Africa, Taiwan, Australia, Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, Malaysia, India, and Singapore. In addition she has trained hundreds of facilitators through her formal training programs and mentored facilitators across 9 countries. Rhonda sat on the IAF Global Board for nearly 3 years in different roles. She has also been the Chair of the Victoria Chapter. Rhonda was recently granted the IAF's Hall of Fame Award.

Her business, Illuma Consulting acts as a catalyst for exploring and attaining positive change in organisations through facilitation, coaching, training and development and stakeholder engagement. Rhonda works with individuals and groups from a wide range of roles and sectors. Her expertise lies in developing and drawing out the wisdom within - encouraging people to shift perspectives, approach problems with fresh insights, make appropriate decisions and implement them so they successfully achieve the outcomes they want.

Rhonda's 30+ years working as a group facilitator have taken her on a journey of development and reflection on the complexities and challenges involved in this role. She has an on-going interest in the emotional underbelly in groups and how this impacts participation and robust outcomes. In recent years she has developed her own model of facilitation.

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