



**oases** graduate school,  
community learning  
and research centre  
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## **Oases Saturday Breakfast 2 May, 2009**

# **Living systems theory: How can inquiry bring life?**

**Presenter: Yoland Wadsworth**

*Yoland will speak about a way of thinking about the act of inquiry/questioning as the dynamic for (more truly) living human systems – both personal and collective. This ‘mental architecture’ is derived from her life’s work of 36 years of research and evaluation work with local communities, large organisations, self help, consumer and professional groups, children’s services, women’s and community health, disability services, neighbourhood houses, mental health, local, State and Commonwealth governments, hospitals, youth homelessness prevention and health promotion.*

*Puzzles encountered in this work led her to search for a way to explain more satisfactorily the surprisingly frequent hurt, damage and fractured cycles of loss of living-being, and to understand better how more integrated cycles of fuller life might be possible.  
There will be time for dialogue!*

### **About the presenter:**

Yoland Wadsworth helped pioneer in Australia since the early 1970s, the use of generative social research and evaluation methodologies (including action research, dialogue and participatory ‘whole systems’ inquiry). She is author of Australia’s best-selling *Do It Yourself Social Research* and *Everyday Evaluation on the Run* (1997 2c Allen & Unwin); and with Maggie McGuinness and Merinda Epstein, the 1980s-1990s U&I staff-consumer collaborative evaluation studies in acute psychiatry: ‘*Understanding, Anytime*’ and ‘*Understanding and Involvement*’. Yoland has a couple of honorary professorial positions at the Centre for Applied Social Research at RMIT University and University of Melbourne’s McCaughey Centre; and is also convenor of the Action Research Issues Association that has its registered address here at Borderlands at the Augustine. She has been in a ‘thinking partnership’ with Jacques Boulet ever since they discovered in the early 1980s that they’d both used exactly the same quote to finish their PhD theses!

## *Come and be inspired and challenged!*

**9am Breakfast**

**Booking: Ph 98193239 or 98193502**

**[info@oases.edu.au](mailto:info@oases.edu.au)**

**Cost \$25, \$15 con.**

**Venue: Augustine Centre  
2 Minona Street , Hawthorn  
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## Oases breakfasts '09

Feb. 7	env/soc	Panel discussion <i>Sustaining Ourselves: Sustaining the Planet</i> Dimity, Julia Cattan, Jose, Peter Ross,....
March 7	env/spir	Dr. Caresse Cranwell <i>Ecology and Spirituality</i>
April 4	social	Iain Walker plus members from SLIC <i>Sustainable Housing – CoHousing</i>
May 2	social	Yoland Wadsworth <i>Living systems theory: How can inquiry bring life?</i>
June 6	art/soc	John Spooner <i>Political cartoonist for The Age</i>
July 4	soc	Dr. Cristina Neisham <i>Human and Social Progress</i>
August 8	spir/soc	Geoff Berry (Monash) - <i>Shamanism in Indigenous Cultures and in Relation to Modern Urban Life and Ecology</i>
Sept 5	spir/soc	Ian Roberts <i>Coming Home - reflections on resistance to life</i>
October 3	art/spir/soc	Roosbeh Malekzadeh <i>Music Poetry</i>
November 7	aesthetic	Jan Allen (Miecat) <i>Creativity and presence in everyday moments</i>
December 5		

\* While dates will remain the same, occasionally the speakers will be subject to change!