



## The Edge Introduction

### **The Edge: Creative and Transformative Approaches to Community Engagement... that actually deliver results**

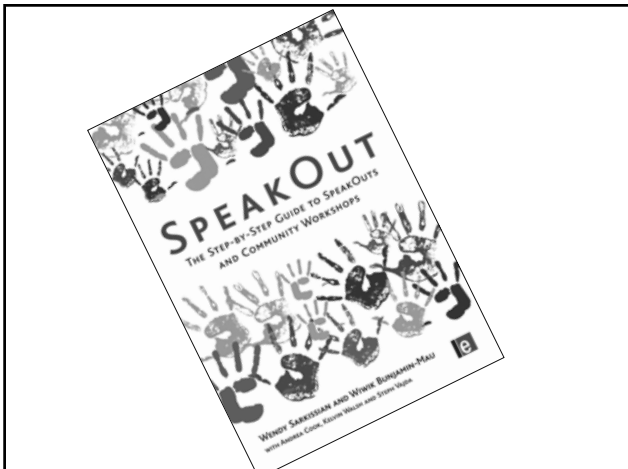
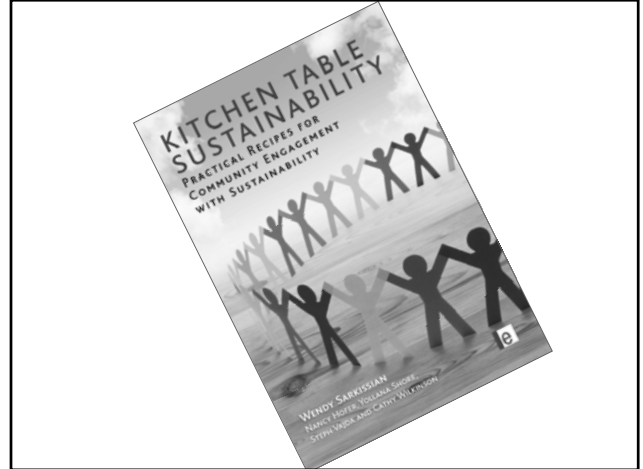
1. many opportunities for participants to explore "the Edge"
2. place where issues and problems are complex and intractable
3. ordinary run-of-the-mill engagement processes do not seem to work well
4. emotions are running high
5. maybe a history of neglect in this community or with this group
6. perhaps there have been many instances of betrayals and broken promises?
7. maybe everyone is bored and cynical and there is little energy for any sort for community engagement processes on all sides.
8. introduces new theoretical approaches (Otto Scharmer's *Theory U*) and explains how they could be used in community engagement
9. 3 case studies from social planning practice
10. hands-on workshop session in small groups: use ideas generated in the workshop in a case study context

The Edge workshop builds on work in Wendy Sarkissian's new Earthscan book, *Creative Community Planning: Transformative Engagement Methods for Working at the Edge* (2010), as well as *Kitchen Table Sustainability: Practical Recipes for Community Engagement with Sustainability*.

## Draft Workshop Program

- 8:15 Arrivals
- 8:30 **Session 1: Introductions**
- 9:15 **Session 2: Why The Edge?**
- 10:00 **Session 3: Stories from The Edge**
- 10:30 Morning tea
- 11:00 **Session 4: Example of EdgeWork 1: Creating the Nonhuman Being**
- 11:45 **Session 5: A New Theory to Guide EdgeWork: *Theory U***
- 12:30 **Lunch:** Individual exercise in Nature during lunch
- 1:30 **Session 6: Example of EdgeWork 2: *Our Bonnyrigg Dream***
- 2:30 **Session 7: Hands-on Exercise**  
(re)Visioning Rundle Mall from the perspective of children and young people
- 3:45 **Session 8: Report back from individual groups**
- 4:15 **Session 9: Example of EdgeWork 3: Eagleby Reconnecting Ceremony**
- 4:55 Final words and close of workshop





**Earthscan Earthcast, May 2010**  
*To what extent do you think local municipalities and agencies are using creative and innovative engagement approaches to sustainability issues?*  
 (n=68)

- Not at all creative: "same old, same old": **19%**
- A bit of an improvement over "same old same old", but not very creative: **46%**
- Definitely beginning to use more creative approaches but still a way to go: **30%**
- Wonderful examples of creativity and innovation that inspire me to participate: **3%**

**This Workshop Participants, June 2010**

*To what extent do you think that local councils and agencies in Australia are using creative and innovative engagement approaches to sustainability issues?*

(n=)

- Not at all creative: "same old, same old": %
- A bit of an improvement over "same old same old", but not very creative: %
- Definitely beginning to use more creative approaches but still a way to go: %
- Wonderful examples of creativity and innovation that inspire me to participate: %

***Creativity Blends***

- 3 Basil, 3 Geranium (inspiration)
- 3 Fennel, 3 Lime (inspiration)
- 3 Ginger, 3 Geranium (laughter)
- 3 Lime, 3 Petitgrain (laughter)



***Joy and Creativity Blends***

- 3 Neroli, 3 Vanilla (bliss)
- 3 Rose, 3 Sandalwood (bliss)
- 6 Neroli (Joy)
- 6 Rose (Joy)
- 6 Jasmine (Joy)
- 2 Basil, 2 Sage, 2 Nutmeg (aspiration)
- 2 Clove, 2 Fennel, 2 Thyme (aspiration)



***Creativity and Love Blends***

- 3 Rosewood, 3 Vetiver (passion)
- 3 Ginger, 3 Geranium (passion)



**BangTable**

Australia's homegrown online community engagement specialists.

Created to improve the quality of public debate and level of community involvement in public life.

**EngagementHQ**

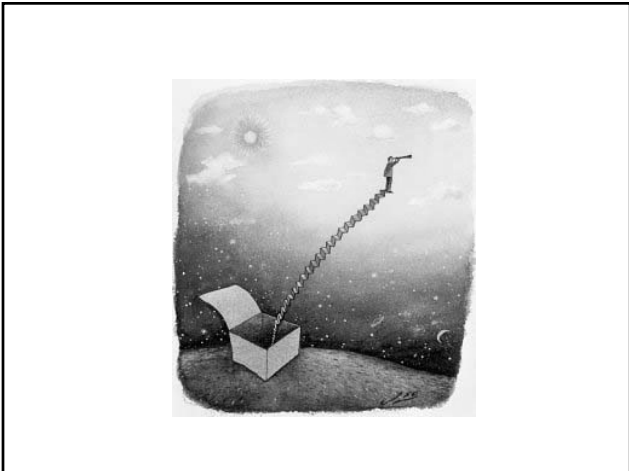
An online community engagement system that facilitates safe conversations between you and your community.

- 24/7 independent moderation
- Integrated reporting
- Up in less than one week
- Rich content
- Fully supported
- Good practice advice

**BudgetAllocator**

The most efficient and risk free way to get your community participating in planning your budget.

- Makes budget limitations transparent
- Makes priority setting transparent
- Integrated reporting
- Fully supported
- Makes budgeting fun





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### **EMBODYING OUR COMMITMENT TO ACTION**

#### ***Resisting***

Holding actions, stopping the worst abuse

#### ***Strengthening***

Build resilience in our communities, organisations and systems

#### ***Creating***

Building alternatives, finding new ways of doing and being

#### ***Renewing***

Working to reform institutions, professions, social and economic systems

#### ***Serving***

Caring for others – humans and all beings

#### ***Protecting***

Preventing harm to the most vulnerable: humans and all beings

Stillness in Action, Inrethello, NSW, 2004