



*On behalf of The*  
Hearing Voices Network Australia,  
Richmond Fellowship WA  
*And*  
*Professor Marius Romme*  
**Chair of INTERVOICE**

*You are cordially invited to make application to attend the*

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual INTERVOICE Meeting

For voice hearers and professionals  
A partnership of "Experts by Experience and Experts by Training"

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2008

In Perth Western Australia

At the Bel Eyre Comfort Inn in Belmont

Join us also for a 'Meet & Greet' Sundowner Evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Venue: TBA

## Theme for 2008

# Voices & Emotions

**What is the significance of the relationship between the hearing of voices and emotions?**



## INTERVOICE 2008

This year, in order to facilitate a wide exchange of experiences and ideas, INTERVOICE will be organized around a number of discussion topics which will be conducted in groups, with a chair who reporting back to the larger group. **So rather than presenting papers:**

**- You are invited to submit a discussion topic and questions to the INTERVOICE committee**

Intervoice\_inaustralia@rfwa.org.au subject heading "Discussion Topic"

Example discussion topics are:

- Voices are (overwhelming/conflicting) emotions,
- How do we deal with emotions?,
- Steps to recovery, voices & emotions and so forth.

**Please Note:** First round of submissions will conclude on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 (to enable program preparation). If there are any requests for special topics or themes please feel free to suggest to us.

**DELEGATES:** INTERVOICE accepts delegates from all around the world.

- **Sponsored Delegates:** As is the tradition with INTERVOICE meetings, two official delegates from each attending country (one worker, one voice hearer) are provided free places. This includes sponsorship of the registration fee, 2 nights accommodation, & 2 days breakfast & lunch to cover the duration of the INTERVOICE meeting. **\*NB:** In addition, in exceptional cases (for international sponsored delegates) an extra night's accommodation may be available on negotiation, in view of possible jet lag (email Lyn in Australia).
- **Ordinary Delegates:** Others who have a demonstrated interest in working with voices (their own or as workers/professionals as a part of their work practice) are encouraged to apply to attend this gathering.

### **APPLICATION TO ATTEND:**

**Ordinary Delegates:** Due to a limited number of spaces, application to become an Ordinary Delegate is essential. Please send your Expression of Interest (EOI) outlining your current involvement in working with voices in 200 words or under to: Lyn Mahboub RFWA [Intervoice\\_inaustralia@rfwa.org.au](mailto:Intervoice_inaustralia@rfwa.org.au) (first round due 30/06/08). You will be notified if your application is successful within 1 month of receipt EOI. If successful, **Ordinary Delegates** will be required to book, and pay for, their own **INTERVOICE registration fee (A\$90.00)** and their own **accommodation** and **meals etc** (via [conferences@eventswa.com.au](mailto:conferences@eventswa.com.au)).

**Sponsored Delegates:** Hearing Voices Networks (or Groups) are asked to register their chosen two representatives who are seeking **Sponsored Delegate** status to Lyn at [Intervoice\\_inaustralia@rfwa.org.au](mailto:Intervoice_inaustralia@rfwa.org.au) by 30 June 2008. **NB: Organising committee chair will book the accommodation for sponsored delegates.**

All delegates please be sure to submit your discussion ideas as soon as possible.

**BONUS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION STYLE CONFERENCE:** Please be advised: As is commonly becoming the norm, the INTERVOICE Meeting will be preceded by a 3 day professional Conference: (*Recovery in Psychosis* details are at the end of this brochure).



## THEME

**ABOUT THE THEME BY INTERVOICE CHAIR:** The theme of this conference is voices and emotions. We know that hearing voices is mostly rooted in either traumatic experiences and/or emotional neglect both with the consequence of having problems with recognizing; accepting and expressing emotions or becoming confused by them. Emotional neglect means being criticized over long periods of time or not having learned to express emotions because it was discouraged and confusing while growing up.

Therefore coping not only with voices but also coping with emotions is an important issue in the process of recovering from the distress caused by the original problems and the voices. The vulnerability to so called “psychosis” is rooted in this problem of coping with emotions and therefore psychosis might even better be called emotional crises periods.

In Ron Coleman’s book “Recovery an Alien Concept” special attention is given to the problems of the self - which are emotional problems. In our last study with 50 voice hearers who recovered from their distress, voice hearers showed in many ways the relationship between their voices and their emotions. This was not only about learning to cope with them but also and more importantly learning to recognize them. Here are some examples:

- Emotions as triggers: Antje “When I was angry and did not express my anger, the voices became angry with me”
- Voices rooted in emotion: Sue “I believe my voices are suppressed emotions that are denied within myself”. This is not only the case with hearing voices but is likewise also possible with manic episodes as Laila says “For me it has to do with the fact that I am especially vulnerable as far as certain feelings are concerned. And that I used to feel very ashamed of them earlier in life”.
- Emotion involved in changing the relationship with ones voices: Antje: “The shaman taught me to talk to the voices in a friendly way. And when I tried, my voices reacted in a friendly way”.
- With recognizing ones own feelings: Jeanette was sexually abused but did not recognize her feelings as her own. She tells “I did not know what my feelings were, what was from the voices and what was from others”. Later she discovered: “The girl that lay there - that was me. At last I had been able to feel the pain. The death agony I had was me. I felt my body again without missing a piece of it. I had to recognize myself and especially accept myself”.

There are many other aspects described and we hope that the different themes that will be discussed at our INTERVOICE meeting will bring the role of emotions into focus. This is important because many therapies especially psychiatric ones try to go around, or suppress emotions, instead of going along with the voice hearer to explore and get through them.

*Marius Romme*  
Chair INTERVOICE  
Professor of Psychiatry Netherlands  
Co-founder of Hearing Voices Movement



1. **VENUE:** The location will be the

**Bel Eyre Comfort Inn**

285 Great Eastern Highway Belmont,  
Western Australia, Australia 6104,

Phone: (61) 8 9277 2733 Fax: (61) 8 9479 1113.

2. **PROGRAM NOVEMBER 2008:**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sundowner (Drinks and get to know each other)

7<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Discussion Groups 9.30 – 4pm 7pm Dinner (Complimentary Aussie BBQ with cash bar)

8<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Discussion Groups 10-3pm close – Intervoice Members Meeting 3.30-4.00pm

3. **ACCOMMODATION:**

It is suggested that Ordinary Delegates may like to stay at the Bel Eyre Comfort Inn, in Belmont, along with the Sponsored Delegates.

3.1. We have organized a special rate of A\$100 per night (Australian) for Ordinary Delegates, if booked through [conferences@eventswa.com.au](mailto:conferences@eventswa.com.au) Subject Heading INTERVOICE 2008. Due to hotel requirements, this rate will apply until 30<sup>th</sup> August 2008 thereafter, normal (higher) rates will apply.

3.2. It is possible that rooms may be shared to reduce costs – this must be specified ahead of time.

3.3. There is other accommodation close by at varying prices but the Bel Eyre Comfort Inn is the most competitive. Accommodation in Perth City itself is very expensive. Due to accommodation in Perth being at a premium (short supply) room bookings need to be made as early as possible in the year.

4. **ACCOMMODATION LOCATION:**

4.1. The Bel Eyre Comfort Inn is about 20 minutes from Perth City centre. Buses pass the front of the building regularly.

4.2. Those staying at the Bel Eyre are advised to use taxis at night to go to and from Perth as this will be more effective use of time. A taxi fare is approximately A\$30 and can be shared if traveling in groups (4 passengers). Maxi cabs which take larger numbers can be booked in advance.

4.3. For those of you wishing to stay on beyond INTERVOICE, you might want to book backpacker accommodation in the city (Northbridge) which will allow you easy walking distance access to Perth and transport to other areas such as Fremantle. Fremantle backpackers are also very quaint.

5. **ATTENDEES:**

5.1. So far the INTERVOICE Meeting participants include Marius Romme, Sandra Escher, Paul Baker, Mike Smith, Ron Coleman, Dirk Corstens, Rufus May, Jacqui Dillon, Marcello Macario, Julie Downs, Peter Bullimore, Lyn Mahboub and Marlene Janssen and others. John Watkins (Australia), author of Healing Schizophrenia, will also attend.

6. **MORE ON AUSTRALIA**

6.1. To view a PowerPoint slide on Australia with good links about currency conversion, places to see etc. Please go to <http://www.rfwa.org.au/> These slides are full colour and so for viewing online there are more print friendly documents nearby.



## BONUS - INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION STYLE CONFERENCE

Please be advised: As is commonly becoming the norm, the INTERVOICE Meeting will be preceded by:

### Recovery in Psychosis Conference

3-5<sup>th</sup> November, 2008

3<sup>rd</sup> (Master Class Day), 4<sup>th</sup> (Plenaries) & 5<sup>th</sup> (Plenaries & Workshops)

**Venue: Perth Convention Exhibition Centre  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Daily bus to the city from the Bel Eyre (Belmont) for *Recovery In Psychosis Conference* delegates will be provided (one time at the beginning and end of each day)

For Information on this conference regarding costs → Email: [conferences@eventswa.com.au](mailto:conferences@eventswa.com.au)  
>>Subject heading: Recovery In Psychosis Conference

See full conference details <http://www.eventswa.com.au/web/About/News-and-Calendar-of-Events/>  
Or <http://www.rfwa.org.au/events.php>

The conference will be a separate event in content and venue from INTERVOICE. Registrations also will be handled separately. **Intervoice Delegates can attend at a special rate of A\$200.00 (aprox £97.00) per day.**

When registering for the Recovery in Psychosis Conference. Please advise [conferences@eventswa.com.au](mailto:conferences@eventswa.com.au) that you are an INTERVOICE delegate.

View of the week in full:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 3rd	November 4th	November 5th	November 6th	November 7th	November 8th
<b>Recovery in Psychosis Conference</b>	<b>Recovery in Psychosis Conference</b>	<b>Recovery in Psychosis Conference</b>	Consumer Forum by WAMIAC*	<b>INTERVOICE Meeting 2008</b>	<b>INTERVOICE Meeting 2008</b>
<b>Venue: Perth Convention Exhibition Centre</b>	<b>Venue: Perth Convention Exhibition Centre</b>	<b>Venue: Perth Convention Exhibition Centre (City)</b>	<b>Venue: Bel Eyre Comfort Inn</b>	<b>Venue: Bel Eyre Comfort Inn Belmont</b>	<b>Venue: Bel Eyre Comfort Inn</b>
Master Classes Day 1	Conference Day 2	Conference Day 3	INTERVOICE Evening Sundowner	<b>Complementary Dinner: Venue: TBA</b>	INTERVOICE Close
		Accommodation may be available in exceptional Circumstances to International Sponsored Delegates**	Accommodation only for Sponsored Delegate	Accommodation, Breakfast, lunch for Sponsored Delegate	Breakfast, lunch For Sponsored Delegate

\* WAMIAC is the West Australian mental health consumer (service user) organisation

\*\* Must negotiate this with Lyn at [Intervoice\\_inaustralia@rfwa.org.au](mailto:Intervoice_inaustralia@rfwa.org.au) and get sign off on this.