

**ASLA XXII National Conference 2011 Report
Sydney 2 -5 October
Saint Ignatius College, Riverview**

It was a cold, wet, somewhat miserable day in Sydney when we landed, but despite this my spirits remained high. It was a delight to be greeted by the very picturesque surroundings of St Ignatius, Riverview, an idyllic site for a conference. Off to Ramsey Hall - a trek in itself, no signage meant meandering here, there and almost all over the College but find it we did!

It was a delight to be greeted by Karen Bonanno, a familiar face at ASLA conferences, and the ever-hardworking fellow South Aussie, Sue Johnston. After our 'hello' hug, a table was chosen and the contents of the conference satchel were poured over eagerly, along with checking there were no changes to keynote speakers, looking over the concurrent sessions to make selections, checking the list of delegates for fellow South Aussies, some familiar names and some 'newbies', looking forward to making connections with them all.

The mandatory housekeeping over, it was time for our first keynote. Jeff Piontek. Jeff, a teacher, amongst other roles, challenged my assumptions about the world we live in and its future, reiterating the obvious, that 'today's world is constantly changing' and challenging and that 'what the eyes see as reality is already history'.

Next it was time for the ASLA Citation for 2011 awarded to Pru Mitchell. A very worthy recipient, and another to join the elite ranks of Citation Winners, Karen Bonanno and Dr Jennie Bales, to name two. Pru has been for many years, and continues to be, an active advocate for school libraries, teacher librarians and librarianship. Pru who has worn and wears many 'hats', deservedly won this prestigious award for her outstanding contribution to the national leadership of teacher librarianship. She is a professional, a very genuine, helpful person that I am proud to call my friend. This was certainly the highlight for Day 1. The Harbour Cruise with its spectacular views of the city's lights was magical, but didn't over-shadow the exhilaration of Pru's citation.

The session, ***Exploring iPads in learning and teaching: learning with a twist*** was a highlight. This was a very practical and, for me, very timely session (my iPad is very new), was delivered by **Lisa Nash** from **Learning Exchange**. Students today consume, create and make sense of content via a range of mobile digital technologies. Lisa showed how easy multitasking with an iPad is, how many things can be done at the same time, how several Apps can be opened at once. There was a clear message that 'Every App is a digital resource' and we should consider how the App can be used as a learning tool; if there is interactivity, then value is added; if it's the same as can be done on paper then it's probably not adding value.

Karen Bonnano's keynote address the next day, ***A profession at the tipping point: time to change the game plan***, was an inspirational, thought-provoking, challenging, yet very practical and 'useable' keynote. We, teacher librarians, are encouraged to see the glass as half full, rather than half empty, to think positively and to begin with the end in mind. The principles of the Five Finger Plan to Success in 'Guide to developing your Midas touch' (from Trump & Kiyosaki's *The Midas Touch*) were outlined, each finger representing a step in the path to success. With this in mind, and the National Government-driven initiatives, in particular, the Australian Curriculum, teacher librarians were urged to be proactive, to 'know' the Curriculum, especially the History Curriculum. This allows teacher librarians to bring in Inquiry Based Learning and to develop ICT competence when students learn to investigate, create and communicate ideas and information. Karen urged us to get the background knowledge, to resource the curriculum and to have the knowledge on how to teach it. Karen's address ended with a challenge 'What do you want to be? - The choice is yours!' Karen's keynote slide show can be viewed at <<http://www.slideshare.net/ASLAonline/profession-at-tipping-point>>.

I made and renewed acquaintances, engaged in conversations, was inspired and challenged, heard about emerging technologies and approaches to digital learning. In the short term I look forward to putting Karen Bonnano's Five Finger Plan to Success into practice, and in the long term I look to ASLA XXIII in Tasmania.

To conclude, I would like to acknowledge my thanks to SLASA for funding for my registration fee. This was very much appreciated.

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