

ASLA XXII National Conference 2011 Report

Sydney 2 -5 October

Saint Ignatius College, Riverview

The majority of the delegates at the Conference were from Australia, with a few from overseas. Sunday afternoon, the opening of the Conference, was the first day of the school holidays for South Australians. It was an exceptionally cold October afternoon sitting in Ramsey Hall but, as the delegates arrived, greeting and meeting fellow colleagues, discussing the program, there was much expectation of what the Conference would bring.

A highlight, not only on the day, but of the Conference was the announcement of the prestigious **ASLA Citation**. It was very heartening to hear the recipient of the award was **Pru Mitchell**. This award is presented in recognition of her outstanding contribution, dedication and professionalism to teacher librarianship in Australia.

Dr Jennie Bales, Lilydale District School, Tasmania - *It's all about... 'Learning in a Changing World'*

- Jennie gave an overview of each of the five books in the series, 'Learning in a Changing World' published by ACER in 2010. This series of books replace *Learning for the Future: Developing Information services in Schools*. *Resourcing for Curriculum Innovation* is one to share with the Principal and school leadership team, as it deals with the need for a balanced collection of books and digital resources to assist our students' learning needs. It also provides strategies for planning and developing the school resource collection, particularly important with the introduction of the Australian Curriculum with the emphasis on inquiry. At the end of each chapter there is a comprehensive list of references.
- *Connect, Communicate, Collaborate* is a practical and inspirational book for teacher librarians and teachers to get started and begin to develop a social network with an education context. Bloom's digital taxonomy concept map may be of interest. This can be accessed <<http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/Bloom%27+-+Introduction>>.
- *Virtual Worlds* explores the importance and variety of virtual worlds for informal and formal teaching and learning. This book will probably be the most challenging for me, becoming accepting and trying to understand the virtual worlds and interactive environments many of our students use as a social and learning tool. Second Life (an adult virtual world) can apparently not only be confronting but to understand it you need to play the game! *Designing the Learning Environment* – this resource is of a practical nature. With the BER funding many have had either a new building or refurbished spaces for the library resource centre. It is not too late to read and evaluate your current building e.g. reconsider the physical space both internally and externally. Many of us focus on the interior and how to best utilise this space.
- *Curriculum Integration*, written by Ross Todd, is useful for both teacher-librarians and teachers. A section on guided inquiry is outlined as well as the importance of connecting the learner with the curriculum. Suggestions are given on how to implement guided inquiry based on the information search process with a template for planning. At the back of the book is a detailed matrix which is not presented as a scope and sequence.

As a result of this very practical presentation I have been inspired to purchase the series of books to read and to learn more about the approaches to digital learning with suggested strategies on how to implement and integrate these into programming to meet the needs of our 21st Century learners/students.

June Wall, Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview - *Designing engaging learning for digital delivery*

This workshop was aimed at secondary teacher librarians, however, the ideas could be adapted to the primary setting. The importance of the purpose for tasks was continually stressed. What do you want the students to learn? What do I want them to show me? The use of digital tools in the process to assist student learning was emphasised. June made many references to 'Learning in a Changing World' books throughout the workshop reiterating many of the points and the practical uses mentioned by Jennie Bales in her presentation.

Sue McKerracher, The Library Agency - *National Year of Reading 2012*

The National Year of Reading will be launched on February 14 – Library Lovers Day. The aim for the year is to promote an understanding of the many benefits of reading for individuals and families, readers and non-readers; to promote a reading culture in every home and for parents and caregivers

to share books with their children. It will be a year to help staff, students and the wider community to discover and rediscover the joy of reading. Sue discussed the four national campaigns that will be running next year.

- Campaign One: The Reading Hour, a family commitment and national event. There is a possibility that this could become an annual event. The Reading Hour, on 25 August, could take place anywhere from libraries, bookshops and other special places
- Campaign Two: Public library membership drive. Families will be encouraged to support, visit and become members of their local public library. Schools can take advantage of the campaign, make connections and become involved with public libraries
- Campaign Three: One Country Reading connecting people across Australia through a shared reading experience using Alison Lester's *Are We There Yet?*
- Campaign Four: Workplace literacy working with major employers to create writer-in residence programs.

Funding is being negotiated for a touring exhibition of Alison Lester's work for 2012 to visit all Australian states and territories. The exhibition will show Alison Lester's original artwork as well as her travel diaries, memorabilia and the different stages in the making of the book, to the final published work. A focus of the exhibition is a map of Alison's own family trip around the Australia.

Good sites to visit: <www.love2read.org.au> and <www.love2read.wikispaces.com>.

The **three strands of the Conference** were: ***Innovation*** - How do we understand innovation in our teaching practice? What new tools or programs could we use? ***Instruction*** - What new methodologies or teaching and learning activities can we incorporate into learning environments? ***Integration*** - How do we integrate digital literacy / transliteracy into a holistic teaching and learning sequence or program? From the keynote speakers to the workshops and sessions I attended, I have been challenged, inspired and stimulated by this enriching experience. The networking opportunities that arise from conferences are immeasurable and this conference was no exception. The trade exhibitors offer various opportunities for professional development. A session on digital devices has been confirmed for interested staff at our local hub group.

Tasmania will host the ASLA XXIII conference. I urge you all to consider attending. It is a worthwhile experience.

Margaret Wilkinson
Victor Harbor R-7 School