

REPORT FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ADELAIDE, 1-3 OCTOBER 2014

It's been a busy and exciting year for the South Australian Chapter.

The SA Chapter was delighted to be able host and run this year's national conference in our beautiful city of Adelaide. The conference was held on the 15th floor of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located in the CBD, with great views over the city and towards the Adelaide hills, and was attended by 210 delegates from Australia and overseas. The theme of this year's conference was: "Walking the tightrope - getting the balance right: Issues and Challenges in Education Law."

A successful and well attended tertiary forum was held on the first day. This was followed by a similarly well supported Annual General Meeting, prior to the pre-conference drinks held at the Crowne Plaza.

The national conference was held across three days, with 5 keynote speakers and a selection of 28 concurrent sessions. The keynote speakers were:

- Chris Kourakis – Chief Justice of the SA Supreme Court – he spoke at our pre-conference welcome drinks about the importance of developing and safely delivering excellence in education
- Alitya Rigney - retired Principal and Indigenous Elder, gave a moving and warm welcome to country and reminded us that we met upon and share the land of the Kurna people
- Robyn Layton – Professor of Law at the University of South Australia – she spoke about racism in the Australian community and challenges presented to both the law and schools to redress the inequity
- Hieu Van Le – recently appointed Governor of South Australia – he spoke about his personal journey from war-torn Vietnam to Australia as a refugee and the importance of education.
- Mark McMillan – Senior Lecturer, School of Law, Melbourne University – he spoke about the challenges for Indigenous recognition, both legally and in the education sector.
- Rosemary Owens – Professor of Law, University of Adelaide – she spoke about the law surrounding young persons in the work force and in particular their rights.

The presenters in the concurrent sessions covered a broad range of relevant and interesting topics. I sincerely thank all who contributed to and presented at the conference – it made for a very diverse, engaging and professionally valuable couple of days.

The Conference Dinner began with pre-dinner drinks and finger food at the Adelaide Zoo and shared with the Zoo's resident Chinese pandas, Funi and Wang Wang. This was followed by a lovely dinner in the adjoining Sanctuary Room. It was a fabulous occasion and a great opportunity to renew old connections as well as to make new ones. In the course of the evening, we had a heartfelt tribute to and celebration of the life of Dr Ann Shorten who made an enormous contribution to our Association.

At the conference dinner, there was also a presentation of Awards to a number of members in recognition of outstanding service to ANZELA:

- Vernita Zigouras Life Membership
- Carmel Kerin Meritorious Service
- Robert Horton Certificates of Appreciation
- Alan Knowsley
- Vivien Millane

- John Orr
- Mike Wilkinson

We were very grateful to secure support from the Law Foundation of South Australia in the form of a grant that allowed us to fund attendance by 13 people who would otherwise not have been able to attend. We acknowledge the generosity and support of not only the Law Foundation but also that of all our sponsors.

I thank all the members of our organizing committee and our event managers, *The Meeting People*, for their hard work over the last two years.

From the feedback received, our 2014 national conference in Adelaide was, I think, a very enjoyable and worthwhile conference, providing enormous and valuable opportunities for professional dialogue, learning and networking.

The 2015 ANZELA conference will be in Brisbane and I wish the planning committee all the very best in their preparation.

Tony Houey
Convenor
National Conference – Adelaide 2014