



ASTEN

AUSTRALASIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITORS NETWORK

NEWS UPDATE

March 2003

WELCOME TO THIS EDITION

HAPPY 2003

This March 2003 ASTEN News Update contains information on:

- ? **ASTEN Conference outcomes**
- ? **2003 Fellowships**
- ? **WA Conference – ‘Learning Outside of the Classroom: Are we making a difference?’**
- ? **Comings and Goings**
- ? **ASPAC Conference**

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Please contact Genevieve Fahey, ASTEN Executive Officer if you haven't renewed your membership. Phone 03 9392 4814 or gfahey@museum.vic.gov.au

ASTEN MEETING AT SCIENCEWORKS

NOVEMBER 2002

General Meeting:

ASTEN Executive for 2002 – 2004

Gaye Hamilton	President
Genevieve Fahey	Executive Officer
Graeme Potter	Vice President Aust
David Wright	Vice President NZ

Next Conference

Aiming for Devonport Tasmania in February 2004 – details next edition

2002 Conference: “The Business of Science Centres”

The general discussion and Workshop with Stephen Brand were both well attended with the following key themes as items for further discussion:

- ✍ **Planning/priorities for science museums core business and positioning**
- ✍ **Sustainability**
- ✍ **Sponsors**
- ✍ **Commercial Priorities**
- ✍ **Visitor Experience**
- ✍ **Paid or Free**

From these points, it has been recommended that the next conference look at these key issues with initial key addresses to explore them in detail, followed by time for discussion/debate.

2003 FELLOWSHIPS

The 2003 ASTEN Fellowships have been awarded to:

Sally Buttle, Discovery Science and Technology Centre Bendigo to enable her to travel to Scitech Discovery Centre, Perth to study:

- Education programs
- Visitor programs
- Outreach Services
- Business Planning
- Shop operations

Paul Fleay, Scitech Discovery Centre to enable him to travel to New Zealand to visit with the National Science-Technology Roadshow Trust. Paul proposes to investigate their Roadshow model and programs to make a judgement on how the Scitech Roadshow can more effectively reach regional communities of Western Australia.

Sally reports:

After receiving an ASTEN Fellowship I traveled to Scitech Discovery Centre in Perth in February to study their whole operation for a week. As the Education Officer and Site Manager at Discovery Science and Technology Centre, Bendigo, I am responsible for our holiday and school programs, science shows and activities and the day to day running of our centre. As I am on a seriously steep learning curve in all these areas, studying at Scitech for a week has been an invaluable experience.

I spent time with most of the departments in Scitech, particularly concentrating on Education Programs, Science Shows and School Visits. Although Scitech is a much larger centre than ours their programs are fairly similar.

It was most encouraging to find that the directions we have planned for many of our programs are already fully developed and running smoothly at Scitech. For instance, Discovery's web site is focused on Education and we are working towards it being a valuable resource for teachers while the Scitech site already contains classroom resources and ideas.

Since returning to Discovery, I have already started to streamline some of our systems and procedures after witnessing the efficiency of various operations at Scitech. This will make it easier for more staff to take on a variety of roles within our organisation without having to spend as much time training as we have in the past. In other areas our staff will be trained more thoroughly before being qualified to run programs such as the Planetarium. This should ensure a higher level of confidence among staff and smoother customer service. Also, we have begun work on a comprehensive Standards and Procedures Manual in consultation with our staff to provide more consistent training and induction across the organisation. These are just some of the things I learnt during my week at Scitech.

I would like to thank the ASTEN Committee for giving me this opportunity and trust that the positive effects will be seen at Discovery well into the future.

Learning Outside the Classroom: Are We Making a Difference?

**Conference to be held in
Perth
on
22 and 23 May 2003
at
Scitech**

A CONFERENCE WITH A DIFFERENCE

Perth 22 and 23 May, 2003

“Learning Outside of the Classroom: Are We Making a Difference?”

The aim of the conference is to provide education, visitor service and marketing staff from educational excursion venues such as Museums, Art Galleries, Zoos, Parks and Gardens, National Parks and Scitech, with a forum to increase awareness and understanding of learning outside the classroom, to identify best practice, share knowledge and skills, to develop strategies to increase credibility with stakeholders, to widen audience and to work together on common, useful evaluation tools. People who should attend include:

- ✍ Education, Visitor Service and Marketing staff from educational excursion venues
- ✍ Education researchers
- ✍ Education Policy Makers
- ✍ Science Council and Education Working Group members
- ✍ University and TAFE educationalists
- ✍ Relevant State Government Agencies
- ✍ Department of Education, Catholic Education and AISWA Education staff
- ✍ Interested teachers and principals
- ✍ Interstate colleagues from science centres, museums, zoos and aquariums.

Outcomes for the Conference will focus on four main areas:

Learning: Improving understanding of learning in informal environments.

Research: Increasing strategies for the validation of informal learning.

Visitor Interaction: increasing learning through effective interaction with visitors.

Broadening our Audiences: Increasing strategies for audience development

Venue: Scitech Discovery Centre, City West, West Perth

Numbers: Maximum of 120

Contact Name for Conference:

Angela Doyle
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Email: angela@scitech.org.au

COMINGS AND GOINGS

✍ Questacon welcomes new CEO Professor Graham Durant

Questacon is pleased to announce that its Director has been appointed. Professor Graham Durant will commence duties on 31 March 2003.

Professor Durant currently holds a personal Professorship of Science Interpretation and Communication at the University of Glasgow. He is the Deputy Director at the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, and is also the Associate Director of the Glasgow Science Centre.

Professor Durant has a strong record of achievement. He was a leader in the establishment of the highly successful Glasgow Science Centre, which was opened in 2001. The overall project cost was £75 million, which made it the largest Millennium Commission funded building project in Scotland. Professor Durant was responsible

for the exhibitions and fit-out for the Centre. Through his involvement in the Glasgow Science Centre, Professor Durant brings to Questacon a wealth of current international best practice.

✍ **Te Papa welcomes new CEO Seddon Bennington** back from the wilds of North America and the Carnegie Science Centre.

ASPAC CONFERENCE – a great success

The 4th ASPAC Conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2-5 March 2003. The Conference was hosted by PETROSAINS – The Discovery Centre.

The conference theme **Science Centres: Learning Centres** attracted over 100 delegates from its member institutions across the ASPAC region, and from further afield, including Finland, Qatar, UK and USA.

The results of the 2003 – 2005 Executive Council elections is as follows:

President: Mr Chee-kuen YIP
Director, Hong Kong Science Museum

Vice President: Dr Keiji HIGUCHI
Director, Nagoya City Science Museum, Japan

Secretary: Mr Brenton HONEYMAN
Executive Operations Manager, Questacon – The National Science & Technology Centre, Australia

Treasurer: Ms Tengku Nasariah IBRAHIM
GM/CEO, PETROSAINS – The Discovery Centre, Malaysia

Assistant Secretary: Mrs Gaye HAMILTON
Director, Scienceworks Museum, Australia

General Councillor: Mr Manop ISSAREE
National Science Museum, Thailand

General Councillor: Dr Yusheng WANG
Director General, China Science & Technology Museum

Members of the new Executive Council present at the 4th ASPAC Conference met to consider a number of co-opted positions. It is planned to announce these additional positions during April.

ASPAC Fellowships

Congratulations to the following science centre professionals who were awarded an ASPAC Fellowship in 2003:

Mr Hendra Suryanto
Head of Exhibition Division
Science & Technology Centre of Indonesia

Mr Narin Kijwisala
Educator
National Science Centre for Education, Thailand

Ms May Pagsinohin
Deputy Director
Philippine Foundation for Science & Technology

These Fellowship Awards provided financial support for each recipient to travel to Kuala Lumpur and participate in the 4th ASPAC Conference.