

Spirituality, Leadership and Management Inc

President's Report for Annual General Meeting

7 November 2015

2015 was intended to be the year in which we reset the SLAM compass with a participatory conference strategy. We recognise that the field of SLAM has matured, diversified, privatised and is embracing multiple generations with multiple preferences for engagement and communications, in particular.

The committee chose the theme of “mindfulness” for the year, which was to work in alignment with the journal and also the bi-monthly cafes, each exploring a facet of the mindfulness dimensions of our field, as led by a different member of the committee. We were aware that this focus was not particularly new, but wanted to deepen our network’s capacity and contribution to the concept as an aspect of our world.

The committee kept to its bi-monthly meetings and together we agreed and supported the conference approach: a residential, with several strands enabling both prepared presentations as well as emergent development. Our thinking was that the conference WAS the SLAM field and not only an opportunity to reflect on it.

We had a difficult start with changes of venues and were given a punishingly short time to secure the 40 registrations needed to confirm our

event’s viability. We issued six weekly newsletters to inform our members of the development process and elicit their support. However, this was not successful and we only managed eight registrations by the Early Bird deadline. The financial cost and risk of attempting to drive the full 70 + registrations that we needed to make the event viable was not within the reach of our finances or labour force, so with great reluctance we cancelled the event. This enabled a return of the deposit so that SLAM’s reserves were still available, affording us more time to rethink the organisational strategy.

On the way, we had met some wonderfully talented, visionary and capable people, and also established the Young Leaders Scholarship panel. We thank Kerry, Sue and Mel for their



contributions to this idea, as well as Aladdin, Geoff, Mark, Rachel and Riripeti, who each supported the vision of the conference by creating the facilitation team. We also thank Colin, Deb, Joseph and Michelle for contributing their ideas to the presentations strand – as we do everyone who submitted

Susan, Mark and Helena (out of frame) meet Dharug Elder Chris Tobin, introduced by Ngambri Elder, Shane Mortimer to establish welcome to country protocols for the conference.



One of the conference updates produced by the conference committee to build momentum

contributions for consideration.

Claire and the journal committee delivered a fine edition this year – our thanks to the authors and the editorial committee.

And we ran five cafes in Sydney:

- John Loty hosted Sarah Cornally's systemic Constellations session
- Yvonne Collier hosted Anna Harper's Shape Shifting storytelling session
- Muneesh Wadwha hosted Michael Bunting's mindfulness in business leadership session
- Glenn hosted two cafes – a panel session on ancient wisdoms with Neerja Ahuja, Dean Collier, Donald Marmara and Susan Goff at the beginning of the year, and a kitchen table conversation with Tom Graves' Enterprise Architecture session towards the end of the year.

We think the cafes are excellent, and are very grateful to both the presenters and the people who attend. We also thank Glenn and Yvonne who do all the communications and set up work. However, our attendance rates remain under 20, and we are finding it difficult to ask presenters to give their time and expertise with such small-scale responses from our networks. We have experimented with other times, but Saturday afternoon appears to be the best time for busy professionals. We are also informed that the venue, while quite suitable and affordable, is not compelling – so we are rethinking.

We have lost two committee members – John Loty and Ella Zhang – who each have other priorities in their lives – we thank you both for years of contributions to SLaM. We have gained two new committee members Helena Read and Sue Sharpe whom we discovered through the conference. Thank you for joining us.

This year we also lost a very dear friend to SLaM, Alastair Rylatt. We have decided, if we go on, to mark each year with a memorial event in Alastair's name.

We have received many wise ideas about the future of the organisation which we are listening to and look forward to working with our friends at the Rethink Tank to conclude our year. We know the field is alive and well: the question is, what is SLaM's role now with the capacity it has?

We are at a crunch point: we either do something radically different and successful or we accept that SLaM has met its end point and it is time to hand our aspect of the sector over to others.

We acknowledge with respect and gratitude the traditional owners of the countries on which SLaM wherever we are, conducts its business.

Susan Goff

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