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## THE VEEP'S VIEW

Philip Harvey

- **Pettee Sessions**
- **PX35 v. WP2**
- **Cataloging conundrums**
- **Music, music, music!**
- **Catholic connections**
- **ACC & C**
- **"A terabyte is not a dinosaur"**
- **A new constitution**
- **Contributions from one and all**

*The Vice-Presidential Summary of the ANZTLA Conference at Blackfriars Retreat and Conference Centre, Canberra, delivered at the final session on Sunday 7th July, 2002.*

This year's Conference saw an historical first, the largest and longest Pettee Sessions ever conducted on mainland Australia. Earnest Pettee people sat with their inked lists and Green Books, analysing each other's hidden motives. Not to mention those of our revered colleagues at Richmond, Virginia, John Trotti and Dottie Thomason. Fifty pages of Richmond numbers arrived from Virginia right on the eve of this classification marathon. Users now have an enhanced picture of such complex debates as 'PX35 versus WP2', as well as the altered status of our relations with the Virginians.

Undeterred, the Veep then droned on for a further two hours to the Association's cataloguers. Postmodernism was summarily sorted out. He asked, 'What do we do with CDs in books?' The frisbee solution was rejected in favour of the occasional connection that can be ascertained between CD and book. The jury is still out. When will the Rules catch up with technological innovation? There were helpful open discussions of local library issues, as well as views aired on the handling of rare books.

Thursday night the conference opened with a Papuan choir, led by the Papuan High Commissioner and his wife, resident in Canberra. Graeme Garrett then delivered the opening address. A well-known theologian, Garrett claimed that he was no librarian, but a grateful user of libraries. Libraries are to the church what memory is to the individual, keepers of our memory and identity. A Babette's Feast is held within the walls of our libraries. He spoke of Mary's relationship to Jesus. The Annunciation asks the question, will you be in it? Will you risk bearing me through the world? We are attenders on angels, according to Garrett. Then we witnessed Mary and Child: the essential relationship between the generations. Assistance and support are crucial. The library cares for and nurtures the work of the gospel in the world. Pieta: we must also confront the conflict in the world. There is a cost involved. Our libraries hold a great deal of the theology of the cross. Then Mary is there,

Quote:

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Graeme Garrett

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at prayer, in the upper room, after Ascension. Libraries contain the effort of what it is to be disciples. The materials of the church - where are they to be found, except in our libraries? Garrett singled out these four basics: call, nurture, suffering, mission.

Music followed us wherever we went. Robyn Holmes is Music Curator at the National Library of Australia. Learning in music should be central in theological education, she said. Emotional and intellectual expression of belief is founded in music. Liturgy and participatory music are central to the traditions. The music kept running ahead of the speaker as the player couldn't control itself, despite the auto-stop button. Music should be essential to our libraries and a vital part of any theological curriculum. Robyn gave scenarios that rang bells with all of us: where is that old hymn tune? How do I find music for my parish worship? Do we have the sources for that specialist Renaissance religious music research? We were reminded too of the complexities of music storage. Put the CD back in the right box, or you have just lost \$30.

Stuart Whelan of Australian Catholic University talked about CathLINK. The links between resources, agencies, documents, libraries and other sites. We were introduced to the mysteries of networks and synonym metadata. The accent was on community as well as academic usage. Another interesting future project is a database of Catholic history in Australia, with relevant links to documents.

On Susan Phillips's advice, we dressed in "full survival mode" and ventured out into the chilly Canberra day. First stop was the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, right beside Lake Burley Griffin. Don't call it the A Triple C, call it the ACC And C! Its Director, John Parkes, said Canberra is permeated with the artifacts of native history. We were told about the idea of a national cathedral at the national capital in the 1920s, an idea that did not come to be. Bishop Burgmann used the St Mark's site for the foundation of a theological school instead. Exclusively

Anglican projects later became unashamedly ecumenical. The genesis for the Centre came from Bishop George Browning and was encouraged by the Governor-General, William Deane. The building is deferential to the landscape, a rippling roof, with native grasses reflecting the passing of the seasons, unlike the grass surrounding Parliament House, it was noted sardonically. The building creates sacred space and includes a pilgrim walk. All hospitality has to be given from a base, John Parkes said.

At the National Library, after lunch at St Mark's Theological Centre, we heard about consortia and the need to present realistic pictures of library capabilities and needs before we start out. We learnt about the digitisation program's preservation and cataloguing, a program that has not yet got round to Prime Minister Billy Hughes's teeth in full 3-D. We heard a gumleaf rendition of *Waltzing Matilda*, but were told that digitised music sheets do not include the bouncing ball because it is "controversial".

We also heard about the Library's online publications, acquisition of which can take up to seven times longer than a normal acquisition. There are 2500 titles, which doesn't sound much after seven years, but that consists of 12,700,000 files archived qualitatively. There is space enough for one terabyte on the database. (A terabyte is not the latest dinosaur find, it's 1,048,576 Mb (megabytes). There are 1,024 Mb in a Gb [gigabyte], 1,024 Gb in a Tb.) And we heard about reference services, which included the amusing aside that Stack is used by the staff when visitors to the Library ask, where are the books?

This year's AGM did not reach the giddy heights of the two-day, three session AGM in Brisbane, but almost. We resolved to incorporate the Association according to Australian law and passed a Constitution that enables this to happen. We determined to move the running of the Australasian Religion Index into a new phase, agreeing to establish a Management Committee.

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Next morning Sue Cox of Charles Sturt University talked to us on services to distance students. An effective on-campus service can adapt to an efficient off-campus service. The building blocks of partnership and reciprocity were emphasised. The management needs to be reminded of the successful work of the service, an important reminder in all our libraries. Sue found that online chat was okay, but not a good idea once she had to talk to more than four people at the same time.

A good example of computer terms driving the language was the description of Dubbo School of Charles Sturt being a "node campus". Sue showed the seasoned aplomb of the technician, continuing the demonstration when the whole building blacked out.

Nina Waters builds relationships with vendors. In her paper, Nina felt that considerations should include broadening the range of products and services, identifying ways companies can work closer with customers, and achieving the 'virtualisation' of the institution. We were given a portrait of her own workplace, Trinity College Library in Melbourne, and how it has utilised theological online education and other new initiatives within the special college context. A main message was: Be proactive, enthusiastic and energetic!

Patrick McArdle talked about the happy relationships at Signadou. Congruity to the task was an apt architectural metaphor. He listed changing patterns of study: there are more women studying theology than ever before; there are fewer theology students studying directly for ministry; and the public universities now offer popular courses. These changing patterns require combined skills and conversations to build valuable human

resources for students, librarians and teachers, something achieved through the process of praxis. Library classes, information literacy - there are various means. Said one student on his information literacy questionnaire: "I would have been s\*\*\*\*\*d without that stuff."

The conference was speckled with Interest Spots:

- Jocelyn Morris got physical about the structure and space of Luther Library in Adelaide.
- Jim Pietsch of OpenBook reminded us of where the books come from.
- Kristina Williams invited us to sit back and imagine our ideal library, one that had a strange resemblance to the Softlink Liberty 3 system.
- Linda Heald floated the idea of a directory of community borrowers.
- Kim Robinson got physical about the planned new Moore Library.
- Jenny Finlay pointed us to the brave new world of the e-book.
- Helen Brennan illustrated the challenges of setting up a new library in Wagga Wagga.
- Diane Bertelsmeier described co-operation within the Sydney College of Divinity.

**One of the strengths of our Association is the ability of our chapters to organise annual conferences in their own places, that are varied and successful, often with seemingly limited resources.**

This year's committee - Susan, Deveni, Nancy, Sue, and Anne - worked on a complex program. The venue of Blackfriars Priory in Watson was ideal. The homemade orange cakes were particularly enjoyable. We were stimulated, instructed and entertained.

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**For next Issue:**  
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