Speakers

Association of Catholic School Principals
STATE CONFERENCE, DUBBO
20th - 22nd May 2015
Speakers

The speakers at the Conference, all well known and inspiring lecturers and leaders, will utilize the Theme of “Encounter New Horizons” in their presentations, around their areas of expertise, summarized as follows:

- Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, a “Boat Person” Refugee from Vietnam and Bishop of the Western Region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He will speak around the Catholic Dimension of the Theme. His Presentation at the CaSPA Conference in Darwin, received wide acclaim.
- Dr Yong Zhao - a specialist on globalization and the impacts of technology.
- Dr Dean Fink - whose work centres around the issue of trust in organizations.
- Valerie Hannon - who works on innovation and future thinking in education.
- Thomas Keneally, the well known Australian Author and Commentator will present the After Dinner Speech at the Conference Dinner on Thursday Evening.

In their descriptors, I have highlighted the themes for which they have become known, below. All five speakers are well known in Australia and highly respected in their areas of expertise.

Conference Dates and Location

Dubbo Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd May

Expected attendance: Approximately 350

Proposed Venues:
Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre,
Dubbo RSL Club Resort
(for Breakout Seminars)

Theme: “The inspiration for the theme of the conference comes from Pope Francis’ call to create, with our faith, a culture of encounter and from this assertion in The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium, “new requirements have given force to the demand for new contents, new capabilities and new educational models.” Hence our conference theme, Encounter New Horizons. The conference program is designed to allow delegates to explore leadership, innovation and the spiritual dimensions of our role within our contemporary context, as we encounter and renew each other in a spirit of faith-filled collegiality.”
Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFMConv

Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen was born on 3 December 1961 in Gia-Kiem, Vietnam, the fourth in a family of five sons and two daughters. In 1972, he joined the diocese of Xuan-Loo’s minor seminary, Long-Kanh, later disbanded by the communist government. He escaped from Vietnam as a boat person in 1980, finally arriving in Australia in December 1981. As a result of the fall of Saigon his family is scattered around the world: he has three brothers in Holland, one sister in Vietnam, and his parents, a brother and a sister in Melbourne.

In 1983 he became a Conventual Franciscan friar and commenced his studies for the priesthood in Melbourne in 1984. He was conferred with a Bachelor of Theology at Yarra Theological College, Box Hill in 1988.

Three years after his priestly ordination on 30 December 1989 he was sent to Rome for further studies and in 1994 was awarded a licentiate in Christology and Spirituality from the Pontifical Faculty of St Bonaventure.

Returning to Australia, he was assigned as a formator in his Order and as an assistant priest at Kellyville, NSW from 1995-1998. He was appointed parish priest of Kellyville for four years and then served as parish priest of Springvale, Victoria from 2002-2008.

He was elected superior of his Order in Australia in 2005 and president of the Federation of Conventuals in Asia-Oceania in 2006. In 2008 he was called to Rome to serve as Assistant General of the Order.

On 20 May 2011, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed Fr Vincent as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Melbourne assigning him the Episcopal see of Tala. Bishop Vincent Long’s Episcopal ordination took place at St Patrick’s Cathedral Melbourne on 23 June 2011. Bishop Long is auxiliary bishop to the Western Region.
Dr Yong Zhao is an internationally known scholar, author, and speaker. His works focus on the implications of globalization and technology on education. He has designed schools that cultivate global competence, developed computer games for language learning, and founded research and development institutions to explore innovative education models. He has published over 100 articles and 20 books, including Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon: Why China has the Best (and Worst) Education System in the World, Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization …

He currently serves as the Presidential Chair and Director of the Institute for Global and Online Education in the College of Education, University of Oregon, where he is also a Professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy, and Leadership.
Over ten years ago Dr Dean Fink contributed a chapter to a book edited by well-known British educator Michael Fielding[i] that looked at the on-going efforts of the British Labour Party under Tony Blair to effect significant educational change. His contribution entitled The Two Solitudes: Policy makers and policy implementers [ii]explored the apparent inability of these usually well-meaning ‘solitudes’ to understand and work harmoniously to improve learning for students in schools. Although his chapter described how the ‘two solitudes’ held different views on the sources of change, strategies for change, theories of action, purposes of change and the success criteria for change, he always felt there was something missing in his analysis. Now, after ten years and many trips to many places to observe and participate in change efforts, Dr Dean Fink thinks he knows the missing ingredient –trust.

Simply stated, trust is the glue that binds, or sadly in many cases distrust is the toxin that divides, the ‘solitudes.’ It is the element that creates the confidence among participants that accelerates change, or the suspicion that slows it down, or in the extreme buries it[iii]. It is a central tenet of civil democratic societies. In the words of Tom Friedman of the New York Times, “you can’t have a democracy without trust and you can’t have citizens without trust –without trust that everyone will be treated with equality, no matter who is in power, and without trust and shared vision in what kind of society people are trying to build”[iv]
Valerie Hannon was a founding director of the Innovation Unit when it was initially established within government, and subsequently became its first Managing Partner when IU became an independent not-for-profit. She serves now as a Board Director and consultant.

Valerie Hannon began her career as a secondary school teacher in London, and has subsequently been a senior researcher (University of Sheffield) and a Director of Education (Derbyshire UK). In her independent career she has designed and developed next practice programs for systems, schools and districts. She has been consultant in support of change programs in numerous systems, including in Victoria (Australia), British Columbia, N. Ireland and in Europe; and is regularly engaged as consultant adviser by overseas strategic agencies (the Canadian Education Association, ANZSOG, The Asian Education Foundation, Centre for Strategic Education, Melbourne).

Valerie is a founder faculty member of our Global Education Leaders Program, within which she is consultant adviser to the system leaders of the Finnish jurisdiction and to the Chief Officers of 7 States in the USA.

As consultant adviser to the Department for Culture and Media in England, Valerie participated in setting up the Creative Partnerships program, which sought to systematize the engagement of the creative sector with schools to improve learning. She has developed programs on futures thinking for education practitioners, including FutureSight for the National College for School Leadership. She was also consultant adviser to the Department of Education and Skills (now DCSF) on creative and cultural learning, following her membership of the National Advisory Committee on Creative and Cultural Education, which produced the seminal report All Our Futures (1999).

Valerie is senior consultant for the OECD on the Schooling for Tomorrow, and Innovative Learning Environments projects. She is also a speaker at, and advisor to, the World Innovation Summit on Education (WISE) now held annually in Qatar.
Thomas Keneally
Award-winning Australian author, National Living Treasure

Thomas (Tom) Keneally is one of Australia’s most prolific and best known novelists. As the multi-award-winning author of more than 30 novels, dramas, screenplays and books of non-fiction, he is also one of its most distinguished.

In 1982 he won the Booker Prize for Schindler’s Ark, which was made into the Academy Award-winning film Schindler’s List. His novels The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith, Gossip from the Forest and Confederates were all short-listed for the Booker Prize, while Bring Larks and Heroes and Three Cheers for the Paraclete won the Miles Franklin Award.

A playwright as well as author, Tom is as eloquent off the page as on it. He is both erudite and earthy with an engaging, self-deprecating sense of humour that appeals to audiences worldwide.

His telling of how he first learned of the Oscar Schindler story while having his briefcase mended in a small Los Angeles store owned by one of Schindler’s holocaust survivors is both moving and warmly humorous.

Born in Sydney in 1935, Tom studied for the priesthood as a young man and then began a career in school teaching before his literary success enabled him to become a full-time writer.

In addition to the Booker Prize and the Miles Franklin Awards, Tom Keneally has also won the Los Angeles Book Prize, the Royal Society of Literature Prize, the Scripter Award of the University of Southern California, the Mondello International Prize and the Helmerich Prize (U.S.).

Tom Keneally’s history of Irish convictism, The Great Shame and The Commonwealth of Thieves about the penal origins of Australia were both published in all the English language markets. A copy of Lincoln, his short biography of the American president and signed by Tom was given by then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to President Obama of the United States as a gift.

He has also published two volumes of A History of Australians and is working on another volume which will take the story as far as the fall of Singapore in 1942. More recently he has published Three Famines, a narrative history of famine, and the novel, The Daughters of Mars.

Thomas Keneally holds a number of national and international honorary doctorates and is particularly proud of the one awarded by the National University of Ireland. He has also been awarded the Gold Medal of the University of California. In 1983 he received the Order of Australia for his services to Australian Literature and in 1997 was declared one of Australia’s ‘100 Living Treasures’.

He was the founding chairman of the Australian Republican Movement, and served on the Australian Constitutional Commission and the Australia-China Council. He has also been President of the Australian Society of Authors.

A keen sports follower, Tom Keneally is Number 1 ticket-holder of the Manly-Warringah football League team. He occasionally writes for newspapers about important events on the League calendar.
SPONSORSHIP AGENCY

Waples Marketing Group
Level 2, 121-123 Crown Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
T. 02 4221 1300 F. 02 4228 5585
E. ACSP15@waples.com.au

ACSP
P.O. Box 111
The Entrance NSW 2261