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23 November 2009

Report on the
18th Australian & Pacific Regional Seminar
held in Wellington New Zealand
Monday 2nd to Friday 6th November 2009.

Objects of travel:

1. Represent the South Australian Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at the Australian & Pacific Regional Seminar.
2. Present a paper titled Coastal Environment Protection
3. Network with Australian and Pacific CPA representative
4. Investigate Cruise ship Berths and use of open space in the cities visited
5. Meet with Richard Macdonald, President, Alexanders New Zealand, water bottlers of the Virgin Kiwi brand productions about supplying bulk water.



All papers from the 18th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Australian and Pacific Regional Seminar are available upon request and transcripts of proceedings including all verbal presentations should be available soon.

My presentation entitled, “Coastal Environment Protection – The Removal of Coastal Land and Water Rights on Eyre Peninsula South Australia” presented on Tuesday 3rd November is located on www.lizpenfold.com Reports page.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and key note speaker Dr Jan Wright, spoke on “Climate Change: What Role for Parliamentarians?” The major theme of the conference became Climate Change with many speakers choosing a topic that aligned with some aspect of this topic.

Mr Bauro Tongai MP made a statement regarding the future of Kiribati. This resulted in the most significant outcome of the conference which is summed up in the motion, **“That the 18th CPA Australian and Pacific Seminar, having heard and discussed issues relating to the vulnerability of Commonwealth countries in the Pacific to natural disasters, recommends that the CPA Secretariat and Member Nations work together to devise and implement necessary practical measures to ensure the survival, and preserve the quality of life of member nations”** as explained in the Communiqué below.



18th Australian and Pacific Regional Seminar
Wellington 2009

MOTION

That the 18th CPA Australian and Pacific Regional Seminar, having heard and discussed issues relating to the vulnerability of Commonwealth countries in the Pacific to natural disasters, recommends that the CPA Secretariat and member nations work together to devise and implement necessary practical measures to ensure the survival, and preserve the quality of life of member nations.

Moved: Hon Dean Wells MP, Parliament of Queensland

Seconded: Mr Bauro Tongai MP, Parliament of Kiribati



18th Australian and Pacific Regional Seminar Wellington 2009

COMMUNIQUE

The 18th Australian and Pacific Regional Seminar conducted in Wellington, New Zealand during the period 2-6 November 2009 included in its agenda responses to the natural disasters which threaten the Pacific region and particularly the island states.

The discussion was galvanized by the remarks of the delegate from Kiribati, who pointed out that the islands were on average only a couple of metres above sea level, and whose population would be defenceless in a tsunami and such natural disasters, and the delegate from Samoa who advised that the time between the cessation of the tectonic disturbance and the arrival of the tsunami wave was approximately 5 minutes. This highlighted the need for practical responses targeted to protect life and property in the frequent inevitable outcome of an unpreventable tectonic event.

Clearly and additionally after natural disaster events including the cyclonic and subsequent flooding whilst more predictable require practical preparation which minimise property destruction and protect human life.

The meeting was of the view that responses to these problems should concentrate in such areas on engineering, planning and regulatory responses and the funding thereof.

The conference therefore decided unanimously to request the Secretariat of the CPA to devise and implement necessary practical measures to ensure the survival, and preserve the quality of life of member nations.

Members stressed that such regulations and a potential seminar should not focus upon the wider issue of cause (the science of say the tsunami is well understood) but as to how preparations can be implemented to minimise injury, fatalities and property destruction within vulnerable communities and the extent to which larger regional populations can assist those which lack both the technological and financial resources to respond. It further recommended that the title of the project might read “Preparation without Panic.”

The coral atoll islands that make up the nation of Kiribati are only about two metres above sea level. In Mr Tongai’s words the government has, “...developed a long-term merit based relocation strategy as an option for our people. As leaders, it is our duty to our people we serve to prepare them for the worst-case scenario. The relocation of 100,000 people of Kiribati, for example, cannot be done overnight. It requires long term forward planning and the sooner we act, the less stressful and the less painful it would be for all concerned.”

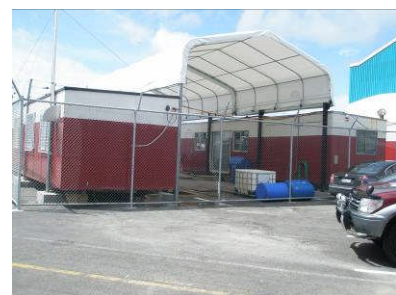
The difficulties faced by this small pacific nation need no further explanation and it is to be hoped that Australia can continue to help with the necessary training that will provide their young people with jobs and a new permanent home elsewhere. I suspect the older people will remain on the islands as long as it is possible to do so but they want to ensure the future of their young people. Their issues make ours in Australia look quite insignificant in comparison.

Other Notes

As a member of ‘Cruise Down Under’ for some years working to help bring cruise ships to Eyre Peninsula in particular, I took the opportunity while in New Zealand to investigate Cruise ship terminals in Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. I was surprised to discover that although these cities have significant numbers of cruise ships call in, the terminal facilities were not a priority. The associated disembarkation paperwork appears to be undertaken on the ship before docking. This enables visitors to be immediately bussed to cities centres to look after themselves or to join pre-booked tours from the dock thereby making the most of their time in port.

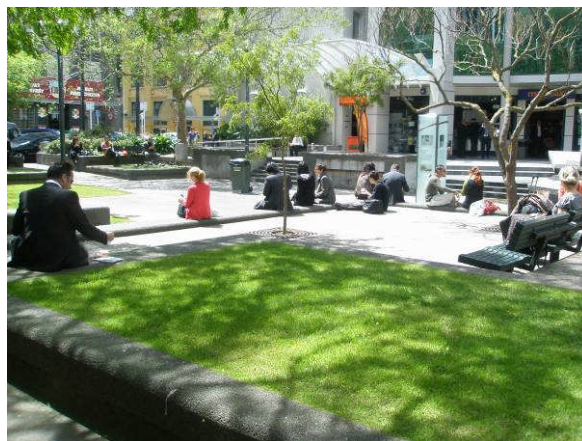


Cruise ship facilities in Wellington that are being replaced.



Parklands in South Australia are not being given the priority that they should have, so I took the opportunity to investigate parklands within and around New Zealand cities. I was amazed and impressed at the standard of open space/parks particularly the botanic parks.

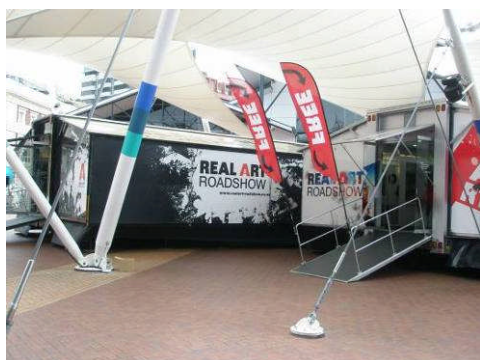
Even though the weather was quite cold parks were very well patronised with tourists, locals and school children being apparent. It confirms my belief that our cities need plenty of open spaces with seats, lawns, trees, flowers and objects of art for people to enjoy if we are to aspire to the quality of life I think we all want. Wooden seat and surrounding stone walls encourage people to come and sit, work, read or eat. These parks provide excellent meeting spaces and I envisage similar areas such as Victoria Square could be beautifully enhanced with this type of infrastructure. See pictures below showing welcoming park areas / open space.



Our city's parks are very barren places by comparison. Perhaps water reuse programs will enable more places of beauty to be developed instead of the current method whereby runoff water runs into the sea to ruining marine habitats.

I was interested to read recently where it was reported that a Dutch study, published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, found the annual rates of cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal disorders, mental ill health, respiratory disease, neurological disease, digestive disease and miscellaneous other complains were significantly lower among those living close to extensive areas of green space. The strongest impact was on those living within 1km of green space and the impact was especially noticeable in mental health.

In Wellington I was very impressed by two Mobile Exhibition trailers which were placed in the centre of the city while the children were on school holidays or having exams. These trailers normally tour the schools across New Zealand. The trailers contained an art exhibition displayed for anyone to view for free. I understand these trailers have also been used for touring science exhibitions.



Pictured left - front entrances of the two Arts display trucks on Wellington water-front.

Pictured right – living quarters situated behind the truck's cabin





The vans are driven and manned by people who live in the vehicles between the cabin and the pull out art space. These people understand the art or science and can assist teachers in the schools to enthuse the students and the broader public who come to view them. Pictured left is the teacher in the living quarters. I believe this could be a fantastic innovation and a great support for teachers who often are not experts in the fields that they have to teach. Visits to for schools and communities throughout our suburbs and across regional South Australia could be undertaken. I obtained further information and contacts about the trailer concept that are included below. The offer has been made from the supplier of the trailers to set up one to comply with Australian road rules that would enable us to trial it.

From: Dave McLeod [mailto:dave@roadshow.org]
Sent: Monday, 9 November 2009 9:32 AM
To: Flinders EO Port Lincoln
Subject: Mobile Exhibition Trailers

Dear Liz

I understand that you visited our mobile art galleries on Queens Wharf in Wellington. Our host has passed on your contact details. Don suggested that I make contact as you had expressed interest in the model we are using to deliver exhibitions throughout New Zealand.

The trailer design we use has an excellent track record. The First of these trailers went on the road in 1997 as the Telecom Information Technology Roadshow, delivering a range of ICT education programmes to primary and intermediate students nationally. That programme travelled the country for 10 years for that purpose. In that time we have developed and delivered a range of education and commercial programmes in these trailers.

The obvious key attributes of our model are:

- Large internal pillar-less space
- Diverse load configuration/types
- Quick turnaround for easy relocation
- Easily operated by one person
- Onboard accommodation option
- Environmental control
- The trailer is the exhibition transportation and venue in one
- Versatile

For more information pertaining to these trailers, please visit

<http://www.mobileexhibitions.co.nz>. To find out more information about the Real Art Roadshow, please go directly to the programme website at <http://www.realartroadshow.co.nz>. While the two trailers that you visited are employed as art galleries from February through to October annually, we do have a third trailer that is available for hire. It is conceivable that it could be setup to meet SA transportation regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding our exhibition trailers or programmes.

Kind regards
Dave.

Dave McLeod
Operations Manager
The National Science-Technology
Roadshow Trust

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REAL ART ROADSHOW .co.nz

Black Collection Catalogue Launch Date 2007

The **Black Collection** (named after the big, black, shiny juggernaut that transports it to secondary schools throughout New Zealand) is the original truckload of art that launched the Real Art Roadshow in 2007.

Inside this truck are more than 60 original artworks by some of New Zealand's leading artists. As a group they form a fascinating collection of post 1945 New Zealand visual art.

We hope it revs your engine!

			
<p>Gretchen Albrecht <i>Summer landscape</i> Acrylic on canvas 1973</p>	<p>Stephen Allwood <i>Cross, study</i> Oil on canvas 2006</p>	<p>Martin Basher <i>I'm the only hell my mother ever raised</i> Oil and acrylic on board 2006</p>	<p>Don Binney <i>Bland Bay, Northland</i> Wax crayon on paper 1971</p>
			
<p>Joanna Braithwaite <i>Wild things</i> Oil on canvas 2003</p>	<p>Mark Braunias <i>The entourage</i> Ink and acrylic on canvas 2007</p>	<p>Nigel Brown <i>Table series VIII</i> Oil on board 1975</p>	<p>Sam Cairncross <i>Boys and boats</i> Oil on board 1973</p>

While in Christchurch I met with the President of a New Zealand company who is interested in moving large quantities of water around the world. There may be the possibility to help fund the Spragg Bag innovation that I believe may assist in the provision of potable water and reuse of storm and treated water for communities.

I have suggested that the first project may be to look at the nation of Kiribati whose underground supply is being polluted by sea water. Water should not be drawn down any further as vegetation and crops will die if the water becomes too salty. The United Nations the New Zealand and Australian Governments who are currently looking at the dire situation confronting Kiribati may be able to assist with this project.

Other discussions have prompted me to investigate the status of proposed template legislation endorsed by COAG, covering Doctors and health professionals in South Australia that is needed to provide uniform Australian standards to ensure mutual recognition of qualifications and provide protection for the public.

The Queensland Bill "Establishing a national Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Health Practitioners: Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009 (Qld) has been passed and has provided the template for other States. Victoria and New South Wales legislation is expected to be passed by the time a new National Board takes over in June 2010. However the South Australian draft legislation needs to be put out for consultation as soon as possible. If not completed by the end of this parliamentary session, the intervention of the next State election in March 2010 and the next Federal election could prevent it from being completed before the National Board takes over which could cause significant disruption in South Australia.

I am also proposing to promote a new Yachting Guide for South Australia and a Safe Harbours concept with Tourism South Australia and the Cruising Yacht Club. I worked on the later concept several years ago as a possibility for South Australian tourism and believe that the time is now right for this project to be reviewed for adoption. The current Yachting Guide is I understand, pre GPS and doesn't include a number of the newer marinas like Wirrina and Port Vincent.

Representing the South Australian Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at the Australian & Pacific Regional Seminar was an honour and a privilege. I found the seminar very interesting and well run and would recommend eligible parliamentarians to take the opportunity if possible. New Zealand was of particular interest to me as their economy is so similar to ours.



Mrs. Liz Penfold
Member for Flinders