



Navigating Uncharted Waters 2009 Conference Review

Again after some three years of planning and great commitment from a small NSW Conference Committee, we have had another great Sydney conference.

The conference kicked off at lunch time on Father's Day, September 6, with two special interest groups: one for Hospital Nutrition Standards and one for Hotel Services. And despite Father's Day commitments, we still had 90 delegates registered.

We officially opened the conference and trade show on Sunday evening with a cocktail party and guest speaker presentation by Peter Wright, "Extreme Chef Consulting, "gave a terrific account of his experience overseeing the catering facilities at the recent Beijing Olympics.

Many delegates then chose to stay on and experienced the "Trivia Challenge with a Twist" hosted by Gary Kennedy, "Correct Food Systems". This time Gary led us through uncharted waters in his "hula" skirt. I am sure some people ended the night in well and truly marooned. "Where does he come up with those questions?"

Day two kicked off with a terrific mix of viewpoints from around the world.

- John Roach - Chief Financial Officer NSW Health
- David Williamson - Support Services Manager, Stratheden Hospital Scotland
- Patrick Schmid - Patient Services Manager, Inselspital Hospital Bern, Switzerland
- Rod Young - CEO, Aged Care Association Australia
- Jeremy Ryland - Director of Marketing, Collins Food Group

It's fantastic to hear these perspectives that very often reinforce and support where we are heading in Australia.

The delegates also enjoyed the trade show exhibits. Thank you all 26 exhibitors (see inside back cover); this was a great commitment, particularly as the conference was running at the same time as the Fine Food Australia exhibition. I really do believe that the trade show significantly enhances the learning and information that delegates get to take away from the conference.

We finished Monday with the Ghost Tour of Sydney's The Rocks area; hence the delegates learnt of the bizarre facts that lurk beneath the surface of Sydney's Historic Rock precinct. The evening's cool and drizzly weather only added to the atmosphere.

On Tuesday, we further explored the Scottish and Swiss experience. Delegates were particularly awestruck by the Swiss Healthcare budget and the impressive Bern Hospital. The breakout sessions that morning received great feedback, so much so we will endeavour to repeat the topics in state seminars during 2010.

We finished with an inspiring presentation from "Rowdy McLean". The "get real guy", Rowdy gave us an insight into what we need to do to release the potential of our employees and also some tips on how to let go of the "baggage."

The Annual Dinner "Surviving Uncharted Waters" was a great finale; over 160 guests came and enjoyed the entertainment provided by Richard Claptout and the Hot Shots, the mixture of comedy, the rock quiz and after dinner music ensured everyone had a great night.

On Wednesday morning, a somewhat weary but enthusiastic group appeared for their chosen site visit. Leaving the NSW committee to tidy up a few loose ends, pack up the uncharted waters decorations and feel proud that we had run another successful national conference.

Christopher Moss	-	NSW Chairperson
Nanette Taylor	-	Vice Chairperson
Neil Winter	-	Conference Treasurer
Sharon Avis	-	Supporter Organiser
Gail Clark	-	Budget & Social Events
Gary Kennedy	-	Social Events

Institute of Hospitality in HealthCare
New South Wales Branch
PO Box 392
Concord West NSW 2138.