



THE CONFERENCE - THE VERDICT

The photo above was the last slide from a series of three which had greeted the delegates throughout the Meet and Greet reception on the Friday night and at 8.00pm this one announced that the conference was well and truly on its way.

Over 200 people attended this reception which included the opening ceremony. The whole affair was based on the premise of people coming back to the home of Bowen - Australia. Flags from 20 countries were marched into the venue by representatives of those countries, with a great deal of pride in those flags being demonstrated by the flag bearers and the assembled delegates. The atmosphere was electric! The flags were then hung around the main conference hall for the duration of the conference and it made for an amazing sight.

The food and canapés served during the evening were excellent and this set a standard for the whole weekend which never fell below 'superb'. This may sound like an exaggeration but over and over during the weekend people let us know how terrific the food was. Often catering for special dietary needs can be a hit and miss affair but nothing was too much trouble for the staff at the Novotel Manly. Those delegates who had requested special meals were catered for by rocking up to a dedicated area where on the giving of your name the delicious food to your specifications was popped into your eager hands. As one of those special people, no comments please, I can vouch personally for the quality, quantity and sheer ingenuity of ensuring that none of the 'normal' people could get to our food!

On the Saturday morning everyone was in their seats bright and early, 240 delegates eager to hear the speakers. We were not disappointed. The auditorium was fantastic and no matter where you were seated there was no straining to see or hear the presentations. Two large screens also gave a great view of the PowerPoint presentations. The committee knew that the quality of the presentations was going to be excellent and so they proved to be, over and above our expectations. Over the two days the different topics challenged, confronted, amazed, awed, amused but above all we learned so much. When it looked as if the weight of the morning and afternoon teas may send the flow of blood from the delegates' brains down to their

stomachs - up popped the Stretch Team to get everyone on their feet to a rendition of Pink's Bad Influence to which Desley Faulks had very cleverly changed the words. Awesome!

In between those two days of excellence there was a night of high energy and yes, you guessed - more amazing food! The Gala Dinner was truly a night to remember. The entertainment from The Swinging Schuberts, the Bollywood Sensations - Wow! - and of course our own Desley kept everyone entertained and very rarely in their seats!

All too soon on the Sunday the last speaker, Sandra Gustafson, had finished her presentation and it was time for Chris Reed, President Bowen Association Australia, to give his farewell address. Chris called the committee onto the stage to introduce us again to the delegates and to thank us for the work done in bringing this international bowen conference together. There is one thing I will never forget from this time spent standing on the stage - the delegates, one and all, gave us a standing ovation.

Well I know that 'Too Good To Miss' popped up a number of times during the lead up to the International Bowen Conference 2010. As it turned out those words proved to be 100% correct! The closing ceremony saw everyone remaining on their feet whilst Desley and the amazing Stretch Team of Faye, Gail, Chris and Anne, had us rocking out of the door to a rendition of John Farnham's 'The Voice' with of course different lyrics!

The feedback from the whole event has been nothing short of phenomenal but in the words of Kylie Emmett, who did an incredible job of organising all the catering for the conference - she hopes you can't fit into your trousers any more either!!

A boxed set of 6 DVDs of the conference is available and we would highly recommend to those who were unable to attend - or who now wished they had! - and to those who would like to watch again the high calibre of presentations an order form is available to download from www.bowtech.com and also www.bowen.org.au

Patricia Darbyshire, BAA Committee Member