31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS MANAGERS IN VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS—‘EVOLVE’ developing the role of Business Managers towards 2020

Four delegates from South Australia (Anne Stewart, Lorraine Omond, Wendy Hayes and Heather Guthrie) attended the Association of Victorian Business Managers Conference held at the Sebel, Albert Park from Wednesday 5 May to Friday 7 May 2010. This conference was attended by approximately 450 Business Managers/Finance Officers from Victoria, 4 delegates from South Australia and 2 from Tasmania.

We flew to Melbourne on Wednesday 5 May and on arrival caught a taxi bus to ‘The Sebel’. Interstate guests were invited to attend ‘Welcome drinks’ at 5-30 pm prior to the welcome dinner. Registration commenced at 4 pm where we received our conference package. The Welcome Dinner was held at ‘The Sebel’. The conference was opened by Professor Peter Dawkins, Secretary of the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development. This was followed with a presentation by Graeme Bowman who was very entertaining with his Bruce Attenborough (David’s brother) performance with reference to what Business Managers do. Graeme was very entertaining and had us all in fits of laughter. The dinner concluded at approximately 10 pm.

Thursday started with breakfast in the hotel restaurant with plenty of selections. At 9 am the sessions commenced which we had selected prior to the conference. The sessions included:

- Cyber bullying & internet safety – Brett Lee
- Demystifying technology – what the geeks don’t want you to know – Toby Tavanner
- Writing Winning Grants – Bernadette Schwerdt
- Information for New Business Managers – basic roles, responsibilities & key information – School Financial Liaison Officers
- Ecommunicator – Kevin Daly
- Exercises for people who sit at a desk all day! – Jodi James
- Creating influence and Motivation – Toby Tavanner
- Communicate Confidently to Small or Large Groups (basics of public speaking) – Judith Field
- VicSuper – Building your Superannuation including Salary Sacrifice – Sue Seabrook
- VicSuper

These sessions concluded at 4 pm.

Pre Dinner Drinks where in the Exhibition Area at 6 pm prior to the Gala Dinner at 7 pm. The theme was ‘Masquerade’ – the tables were tastefully decorated. Many people dressed up for the occasion and everyone had a mask of varying descriptions. The entertainment was by ‘Jellybean Addiction’. The music was too loud during the dinner, which made it impossible to talk to others at our table. The dinner concluded at approximately 11-30 pm.

Friday was breakfast in the hotel restaurant. At 9 am Trevor Summerson, an invited speaker from the United Kingdom spoke about the programs run by the National College for School Leadership. Kerry Brimfield, also from the United Kingdom, spoke on her role in schools. Morning tea was served at 11 am with the closing announcements (exhibitor prize presentations, retirement and recognition of interstate delegates) at 11-30 am. The final performance was Brad Blaze, a speed painter. He painted 2 large portraits in a very short time. The conference concluded at 1 pm. The interstate visitors where invited to attend dinner in the hotel restaurant with the committee.

A very enjoyable time was had by all. The Victorian Business Managers made us all feel very welcome.
Comments:
There were 38 exhibitors. Several exhibitors showed interest in attending our conference – they were given a prospectus. If they don’t attend this years conference, we will follow up with them early next year. Very generous with their prize draws. We were given a crossword as our sponsor passport – had to get a clue from each exhibitor’s booth to complete the crossword – this was fun and different from just getting stamps.

Food – heaps of it and very nice

Venue – very comfortable and a great venue for the conference.
L-R: Wendy Hayes, Lorriane Omond, Anne Stewart, Heather Guthrie

Table decorations 'Masquerade' Dinner

L-R: Wendy Hayes, Lorriane Omond, Anne Stewart, Heather Guthrie with masks

VICTORIAN CONFERENCE