

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUMS (for IRSTM Conference, Tehran, 2012)

The main focus on the 16 lectures/workshops in this meeting will focus on one science centre, the Monash Science Centre in Melbourne, Australia – part of a university and whose purpose is to interface research active scientists and technologists across a broad range with children, their parents, the general public and with many other disciplines not so often allied with science. The following lectures were given by Prof Patricia Vickers-Rich.

Lecture 1. Building a Science Centre – from the beginning (Monash Science Centre, 1993-2012).

Lecture 2. The Concept behind the Monash Science Centre - current research to the public with an emphasis on youth.

Lecture 3. From Where Came the Concept – A Personal Journey from life on a farm to a global research scientist.

Lecture 4. Of Architects and Scientists – the planning and construction of the Monash Science Centre with a Sustainable Purpose. Architectural plans and reasons behind the construction.

Lecture 5. Building Curriculum – the importance of tying offerings to the State and Federal Curriculum Guidelines – and ever changing landscape, but critical to the value of content.

Lecture 6. Building Special Projects. Lending Library Boxes, topic selection, funding, content, curriculum compliance.

Lecture 7. Building Special Projects. Family Science Nights, Public Lectures, Special Occasions.

Lecture 8. Building Special Projects. Children/Teachers/Parents in Field Activities. Dinosaur Dreaming Project, Water Quality Assessment, Synchrotron Science, Aboriginal Garden, etc.

Lecture 9. Building Special Projects. Web development – a way to provide further support to teachers and the general public.

Lecture 10. Building Special Projects. The Saturday Science Club – a true interface with research scientists – children and their parents in the laboratories at University and Museum. School Holiday Program.

Lecture 11. Exhibitions. Development in cooperation with research scientists for both in house and travelling exhibitions. Involvement in University and High School students in the design and construction of exhibitions. A major source of funding and education.

Lecture 12. Management of Staff and Income. Maintaining small working groups for well being, innovation and excellent student/teacher/family interaction.

Lecture 13. Cooperative Work with Other Institutions. A look at local, national and international programs in Australia, Timor, Namibia, Russia. Example, Casting project with the Russian Academy of Science and the Education programs with Timor-Leste.

Lecture 14. Mentoring Others. Work with teachers, students, staff of other institutions, etc. Teaching high school students to mentor primary children. Using Post-grad university students to work with Primary and Secondary students – In2Science as an example.

Lecture 15. The Most Valuable Interactives – People to People.

Lecture 16. Discussion and Summation