

# ANZCA 2016 - Final Report

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## Overview and conference theme

The University of Newcastle's School of Design, Communication and IT hosted the 2016 ANZCA conference from Wednesday 6th - Friday 8th July on the Callaghan campus with support from the Faculty of Science and IT and the University of Newcastle. We also hosted a postgraduate and ECR pre-conference symposium on Tuesday 5th July, organised by post-grad representatives Liz Good and Caitlin McGregor.

The conference theme was 'Creating Space in the Fifth Estate' and the summary call for papers was: "Taking a very broad understanding of the fifth estate this conference seeks to explore what is new and valued about the digital terrain. Are these digital spaces becoming the new mainstream and, if so, how do communicators of all types find a place there?"

We chose this theme as we believed it encompassed a wide enough framework for all streams to engage with and the full call for papers deliberately included a number of questions that directed the different streams.

We are currently experiencing a global change that is as radical as the industrial revolution was. While we may not be able to properly see what it means clearly or have the distance as yet to give us a deep understanding of these shifts, we can still ask whether the intellectual frames we used to understand what happened at the end of the nineteenth century are still useful to us now. Taking a very broad understanding of the fifth estate this conference seeks to explore what is new and valued about the digital terrain, what we lose and what we gain, and how this process changes various forms of communication and actions we as communicators and communication scholars now need to engage with.

While the notion of the fifth estate initially referred to bloggers, journalists and other non-mainstream media outlets it may be that the place we thought outliers occupied is now itself constituting a mainstream space. We want to include all the online networks that create and share information, constitute new communities, and aid in organising social movements that take the place of those that existed in an industrialised world as well as the traditional forms that are finding their niche in the new world. As well as considering the power of journalism in all its traditional and radically new forms, we also want to remind ourselves there are other loci of power for communicators of all stripes.

- Are possibilities of action, power and passion just as readily opened up via our engagement with film, with songs, with memes, podcasts and electronic devices whose function radically shifts what it is to be human?
- Who do we consider we are now that interpersonal communication continues to mutate so significantly?
- Do we still owe allegiance to the nation state and all that means for us as citizens as electronic messages dissolve borders?
- Where is the still point in our identity as we mix ideas, values, ethics and histories that were unique but are now shared instantaneously worldwide?
- Do the rights and duties of those who 'take positions' really help to address the fluid subtleties of power that occur through various communication acts?
- How does the corporate world maintain itself as the power of consumers using social media hold it responsible in ways the corporations never imagined?
- How do they convince their audiences of their benefit as the public sphere exhibits a flux and dynamism they could hardly foresee even ten years ago?
- Will those who examine creative industries give as much time to exploring the basis of those industries, i.e. creativity, as they do to policy and markets? What are the implications of doing that? Do we really co-create messages?
- What about power and identity?

- How radically are they shifting shape and form?

There are many, many questions to ask and discuss as we try to create sense of what is happening around us and grope towards finding an intellectual space that helps us truly and usefully understand these shifts.

There are many more questions to be answered by communicators of all types. We invite you to explore them, report on them, bring unique perspectives to bear on them and most importantly of all, share your ideas about them with us. We hope ANZCA 2016 creates the space for that.

Australian keynotes included Ms Phillipa McGuinness, editor at UNSW Press and author of *Copyfight*, and Gold Walkley award winning Newcastle journalist Dr Joanne McCarthy. International keynotes Prof Stephen J.A. Ward, digital media ethicist, Prof Amanda D. Lotz, who researches TV in the digital age, and Prof Tony Schirato, talking about fantasy sports, rounded out the guest speakers and provided a broad insight into the conference theme.

The conference attracted 151 delegates from Australia (123), New Zealand (22), Nigeria (1), Korea (1), United States (2), Zimbabwe (1) and the Netherlands (1) and made a surplus of \$13,331.73. 166 initial submissions were received and, after reviewing and withdrawals, the conference included 128 presentations, nine panels, five keynotes, a Q and A style panel, and a screening as well as social events including a Welcome to ANZCA cocktail hour and conference dinner.

## Keynote speakers and plenary sessions

Five keynote speakers were organised for the conference. These keynotes were a mix of professional and academic and we received positive comments about the choice of keynotes both in person and on social media.

- Phillipa McGuinness: *The people formerly known as the audience: power shifts in the digital age*
  - Professional keynote. Ms McGuinness is an Executive Publisher at NewSouth Publishing/UNSW Press where she publishes books on Australian history, culture, art and politics, as well as biographies and memoir.
- Professor Stephen J. A. Ward: *"We Just Disagree." Realizing Global Media Ethics Amid Disagreement*
  - International academic keynote. Professor Ward is an internationally recognised media ethicist whose writings and projects have influenced the development of the field in theory and practice.
- Professor Amanda D. Lotz: *From Distinction to Noisy: Creativity and Change in 21st Century U.S. Television*
  - International academic keynote. Professor Lotz is a professor in the Departments of Communication Studies and Screen Arts and Cultures at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on U.S. television, specifically the industrial shifts since the end of the network era and on representations of gender on television and in the media
- Dr Joanne McCarthy: *Media meltdown: it's not all bad news*
  - Professional keynote. Dr McCarthy is a Gold Walkley award winning journalist at the Newcastle Herald. She won the award for her part in the Herald's 'Shine the Light' campaign for a Royal Commission into the sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy
- Professor Tony Schirato: *Digital Media, Fantasy Sport and the Transformation of the Contemporary Field of Sport*
  - International academic keynote. Professor Schirato is the Head of the Department of Communication at the University of Macau. He researches in the areas of sport, gender theory, and the relation between technology and cultural politics.

There were two keynotes on Wednesday and Thursday and one keynote on Friday. We organised a Q and A style panel on Friday morning based on ABC TV's Q and A program with five panellists and a moderator with questions from the audience. We chose five academics who are experts in their field with University of Newcastle's Felicity Biggins as the moderator. We invited questions beforehand from the delegates and also encouraged the audience to participate during the panel. The panellists were Prof Amanda D Lotz (audience), Prof Lelia Green (young people online and other online expertise), Dr Diana Bossio (social media and journalism), Prof Stuart Cunningham (creative industries) and A/Prof Donald Matheson (ethics). These panellists are also highly experienced in Communication and we were able to generate discussion around contemporary Communication issues.

Prof Schirato and Prof Ward have both been invited to submit their papers to the special edition of CRP and Ms McGuinness and Dr McCarthy will submit their talks as commentary pieces. MIA supported Prof Lotz and they are organising a special edition around her keynote.

We had some issues organising keynotes. July is a busy international conference season and there is a conference circuit in Europe happening at the same time particularly in public relations and online/Internet/digital communication. It is a good idea to organise keynotes as early as possible to ensure people are available but to also make the conference attractive for delegates when they are considering which conference to attend.

## Post-graduate pre-conference

Liz Goode and Caitlin McGregor organised the pre-conference event (Liz went on leave in May). The focus of the day was networking with other researchers and discussing diverse career pathways during and beyond the PhD. Liz and Caitlin organised A/Prof Inger Mewburn, known as the Thesis Whisperer, to do the main keynote on the day and A/Prof Phillip McIntyre to present the closing keynote. Liz and Caitlin also organised an academic speed-dating event and a panel where four researchers/academics/industry professionals shared their experiences and answered questions about post PhD career pathways. A/Prof Inger Mewburn, Dr Mitchell Hobbs, Dr Jonathon Hutchinson & Dr Elizabeth Paton took part in this panel.

Caitlin and Liz arranged with the University's Office of Graduate Studies to split the cost of A/Prof Mewburn. Inger presented at a University-wide event on the Wednesday of the conference week and, therefore, the costs were halved.

## Prizes and awards

The panel for the Grant Noble prize was A/Prof Donald Matheson, A/Prof Phillip McIntyre and Dr Diana Bossio. Dugald Williamson was on leave. The panel for the Christopher Newell prize was A/Prof Donald Matheson, A/Prof Phillip McIntyre, Dr Diana Bossio, Prof Gerard Goggin and Dr Katie Ellis.

### Grant Noble Prize for best paper by a postgraduate student

Four student papers were given to the judges for their appraisal. Jessamy Gleeson won the Grant Noble Prize for her paper titled *"Destroying the Joint?" How an online feminist campaign can assert a form of power in its attempts to challenge and change representations of women in the mainstream media.*

### Christopher Newell Prize for best paper dealing with disability and communication

There were no full papers submitted to the disability stream. The Christopher Newell Prize can also be awarded for papers dealing with questions of equity, diversity and social justice as they pertain to communication. Four papers were given to the judges that met the criteria. The winner was Professor

Ramaswami Harindranath from the University of New South Wales for his paper entitled *Multiculturalism, Interculturalism and Communication*.

*Citation for the Christopher Newell prize, ANZCA 2016*

We are very pleased to award the Christopher Newell prize to Professor Ramaswami Harindranath for the paper entitled 'Multiculturalism, Interculturalism and Communication'.

The judges felt that this was a very intriguing, elegant and well-theorized paper, that offers a rich and suggestive theorization of multiculturalism, interculturalism, diversity.

The paper is very thorough in dealing with the conceptual issues in the use of each key term it analysis, and it is even-handed and very well written. The reader is drawn in with an excellent introduction, and then is absorbed in the arguments being presented. The paper opens a window on a set of ideas directly addressing diversity that we feel will be pursued further by a range of scholars and areas.

We will be especially interested to see how the concept of disability might be related to the conceptualization of diverse and multicultural societies that the author is offering.

All in all, we felt the paper resonated as a fine work of scholarship advancing research and debates in questions of equity, diversity and social justice as the pertain to communication – very much in the spirit of Christopher Newell's own work and preoccupations.

It is a piece of research very much attuned to exploring the frontiers of this important cross-roads of society and communication – and we congratulate Hari on his scholarship, theorization, and achievement.

### People's Choice Best Presentation

Pita Shelford from the University of Waikato was the winner of the Best Presentation prize, as voted by conference delegates, for his paper *Hauora Tāne Māori: Tirohanga O Mua, O Muri Māori Men's Health: An Intergenerational Perspective*. The award was presented at afternoon tea on the final day of the conference.

### President' Award for Outstanding Contribution to ANZCA

This award was presented to Dr Janet Fulton of the University of Newcastle.

### ANZCA bursaries

Two A\$1000 bursaries were advertised to post-graduates who submitted full papers. We invited all the post-grads to apply but stipulated that applicants from low- and middle-income countries would be preferred. Three applications were received - one from a low-income country, and two from Australia. With that in mind, we awarded one bursary of \$1000 to Mrs Titik Rahayu and two \$750 bursaries to Ms Diane Spencer-Scarr and Ms Jessamy Gleeson.

### Streams and stream coordinators

There were 26 streams and 33 co-ordinators. We would like to thank the stream coordinators for their efforts in promoting their stream, organising reviews for the full papers and QAing the abstract-only and panel submissions. The decision was made to include a Screen Production stream to reflect one of the research strengths at the University of Newcastle and we received six submissions for this stream.

We were thrilled at the number of submissions in the Indigeneity stream with 12 submissions, including a panel. The conference was held in NAIDOC Week and the University of Newcastle is known for its Indigenous centre, the Wollotuka Institute. Two of the Indigenous stream submissions were from New Zealand.

### Stream Coordinators

<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>Stream</b>
Chika	Anywanu	Citizenship
David	Nolan	Citizenship
Robbie	Fordyce	Comm. Theory
Harry	Criticos	Community Media
Terry	Flew	Creativity/Creative Industries - couldn't complete so Phillip McIntyre took over
Phillip	McIntyre	Creativity/Creative Industries
Donna	Henson	Cross cultural, interpersonal and intercultural
Holly	Randell-Moon	Cult. Pol.
Marj	Kibby	Cult. Studies
Scott	Rickard	Digi Media
Gerard	Goggin	Disability
Katie	Ellis	Disability
Deb	Anderson	Env. & Science
Steven	Maras	Ethics/Law
Elizabeth	Coleman	Ethics/Law
Sal	Humphreys	Games
Jessamy	Gleeson	Gender
Saba	Bebawi	Global Media and Development
Kate	Holland	Health
Lisa	Waller	Indigeneity
Folker	Hanusch	Journalism
Stephen	Harrington	Journalism
Jock	Given	Media Hist.
Diana	Bossio	Media Stud.
Michelle	Willson	Mobile

Clare	Lloyd	Mobile
Janet	Fulton	Open
Colleen	Mills	Organisational
Donald	Matheson	Pedagogy
Kerry	McCallum	Political Comm.
Kate	Fitch	PR
Susan	Kerrigan	Screen Prod.
Simon	Weaving	Screen Prod.

Co-ordinators were invited to tailor the theme to their own stream and include the focused conference theme on the conference website but only the Law/Ethics coordinators took that option. This should be a stronger suggestion for future conferences, and could lead to more submissions as authors would know how the conference theme fits into their areas of interest.

#### Number of submissions per stream

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Submissions</b>	<b>Accepted</b>		<b>2015</b>
Citizenship	1	1		13
Communication Theory	2	2		6
Community Media	3	3		3
Creativity/Creative Industries	7	7		5
Cross cultural, interpersonal and intercultural	6	6		10
Cultural Politics	5	5		9
Cultural Studies	5	5		10
Digital Media	26	26		19
Disability	2	2		1
Environment and Science	11	9	Inc 1 x panel	4
Ethics and Law	7	7		5
Games	4	4	Inc 1 x panel	1
Gender	4	4	Inc 1 x panel	5
Global Media and Development	1	1		2
Health	4	4		3
Indigeneity	12	12	Inc 1 x panel	1

Journalism	21	19	Inc 1 x panel	19
Media History	1	1		2
Media Studies	7	7		9
Mobile	2	1		6
Open	10	10	Inc 2 x panel	12
Organisational	0	0		3
Pedagogy	2	2		6
Political Communication	10	10	Inc 1 x panel	12
Public Relations	7	7		13
Screen Production	6	6		n/a
	<b>166</b>	<b>161</b>		<b>177</b>

### Stream coordination issues

Professor Terry Flew had to withdraw from coordinating the Creativity/Creative Industries stream due to work commitments and A/Prof Phillip McIntyre took over. The Digital stream had a large amount of submissions and the Organisational stream had a minimal number submitted. For the latter stream, the Stream Coordinator indicated members felt excluded by this year's conference theme. For the former, the Digital stream will need to be either split down further or it needs a team of coordinators. It was the largest stream and Scott Rickard did a phenomenal job organising the stream on her own but it is a lot of work for one person.

### Program and papers

#### Submissions (all)

Decision	Submissions	Full papers	Abstracts	Panels
Accept	101	9	84	8
Accept with changes	57	26	30	1
Accept as non-refereed	3	3		
Reject	5	2	3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>9</b>

#### Submissions (students only)

Decision (Students)	Submissions	Full papers	Abstracts	Panels
Accept	25	3	21	1



Earlybird registration	108	70%
Normal registration	46	30%
Student	52	34%

We based the pricing on Melbourne figures. Registration payments were collected by the University's Finance Division and forwarded to the School of DCIT for administration. Again, in line with previous conferences, we didn't offer day rates.

	Early Bird (before May 10, 2016)	Normal Registration (after May 10, 2016)
Full Registration (ANZCA Member)	\$399	\$499
Full Registration (non-ANZCA member)	\$499	\$599
Postgraduate (ANZCA member)	\$289	\$339
Postgraduate (non-ANZCA member)	\$329	\$349
Conference dinner	\$90	\$90

(Further breakdown by registration)

Early bird postgraduate (ANZCA member)	5
Early bird postgraduate	27
Early Bird Registration (ANZCA member)	50
Early Bird Registration	26
Full postgraduate registration (ANZCA member)	4
Full postgraduate registration	16
Full registration (ANZCA member)	11
Full registration	15
Conference dinner	88

## Budget

The conference returned a surplus of \$13,331.73 to ANZCA. The total expenditure was \$64,207.27 and the total conference income was \$77,539 including sponsorship and the conference dinner payments. The School of Design, Communication and IT provided \$20,000 in seed funding, which proved invaluable until the registration payments started coming in. The surplus of \$13,331.73 was the result of conference

organisers doing the majority of the administrative work, with expected funding from the University unavailable in 2016.

<b>INCOME</b>	
Registrations (154 - 150 paid)	\$63,220.00
Conference dinner - monies received as at 13.7.16	\$7,920.00
School Support (inc. HCIT)	\$2,799.00
<b>Sponsorship</b>	
MIA contribution (Amanda D Lotz)	\$2,000.00
Sponsorship (SAGE Publications)	\$400.00
Sponsorship (HIMH)	\$500.00
Sponsorship (Polity)	\$200.00
Sponsorship (Taylor and Francis)	\$500.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$77,539.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
EasyChair management system	\$560.00
Catering	\$25,926.80
<b>Social program</b>	
Welcome cocktail drinks	\$4,156.57
Conference dinner	\$8,684.00
President's dinner	\$586.70
Executive Meeting Dinner	\$1,224.80
<b>Postgraduate event</b>	
Presenter's costs (accommodation, travel, booking fees, miscellaneous)	\$603.55
Lunch	\$1,160.25
<b>Keynote speakers</b>	
Expenses (accommodation, travel, booking fees, miscellaneous)	\$12,710.20
<b>Promotional</b>	
Graphic design & printing	\$1,710.00
Program	\$1,864.40
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Proofing - conference book and proceedings	\$1,680.00
Buses	\$2,650.00
Gifts for speakers/panel chairs (sponsors)	\$375.00
Gifts (professional and technical staff)	\$315.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$64,207.27</b>
Total income	\$77,539.00
Less expenditure	\$64,207.27
<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$13,331.73</b>

## Registration issues

The University payment system generated two emails when a delegate paid: an order and a payment invoice. This created some confusion but was a minor issue. There does need to be some discussion around those who want to come to the conference who are neither a full-time academic or a student. Sessional academics, for example, find the full price difficult to manage, particularly if they have travelling costs as well.

We experienced similar issues to other conferences in regards to delegates: late withdrawal of submissions, “scam submissions” from individuals seeking ways to enter Australia; delegates who applied to multiple conferences and withdrawing from ANZCA; withdrawals due to sickness or other personal issues. Quite a number of authors registered after the due date and required several reminder emails from the conference convenors.

## Sponsorship and collaboration

A sponsorship page was set up on the conference website with different options for interested parties. Part of the information included:

Delegates are given a conference goodie bag, which will hold information about the conference, and we are offering an option to include a flyer in the goodie bag to advertise your business or provide shopping/dining/experience opportunities.

For \$400.00, you will receive the following:

- Your logo on our website with a link to your business
- Your logo on the sponsors’ page in our conference handbook
- The opportunity to include something in the delegates’ goodie bags.

Social media was used to try and get local companies interested but we didn’t get any commercial businesses on board via this avenue. The convenors’ contacts led to sponsorship from Tulloch’s Winery, Hunter Institute of Mental Health and the Lucky Country Hotel. Publishers were contacted but only SAGE accepted the invitation. Taylor and Francis have an agreement, via the Communication Research and Practice journal, and supported the conference and Media International Australia provided funding towards a keynote. Polity Publications contacted the convenors to ask for options.

The final cash sponsorship amount was \$3600.00. Sponsors who supported the event were:

Hunter Institute of Mental Health	\$500 - sponsored Friday morning tea
SAGE Publications	\$400
Polity Publications	\$200
Taylor and Francis	\$500 - toward the Welcome to ANZCA cocktail event
Media International Australia	\$2000 - support for keynote Amanda D. Lotz
Tulloch’s Winery	Keynote gifts and discounted alcohol for Welcome to ANZCA cocktail event
Lucky Country	Executive meeting venue provided for free

The University also provided a significant amount of support in the form of venues, technical support, printing, professional staff, administrative support and financial management. We would not have produced a surplus without the considerable support of the University and School of Design, Communication and IT. Finally, the convenors arranged for the UON Co-op Bookstore to hold a bookstand with publications from the keynotes and delegates, which they found to be very successful. Delegates were invited to forward their recent publications on for the Co-op to source and sell.

## Budget and sponsorship issues

Part of the funding from the University was pulled and the decision was made in April to reduce the amount budgeted for administrative help, which meant the majority of administrative work was done by the conference convenors with the support of the School of DCIT professional staff. It needs to be noted that the School of DCIT provided support to Dr Fulton by reducing her teaching load.

We also found it difficult to get sponsorship. Outside the journals, commercial sponsorship was very limited.

## Conference submission and review process

The call for papers opened on 1 November 2015 and closed on 9 March 2016 (extended from the initial due date of 4 March). Full papers, abstracts and panels were all due on the same date.

We used the EasyChair conference platform, although it wasn't used to its full capacity. EasyChair is unintuitive in some of its functions and there is limited Help documentation. The convenors paid for the 'Professional' licence as it was the only way multiple streams could be managed. The platform is highly recommended to keep track of submissions, particularly when it comes to contacting authors.

Authors were asked to submit via the EasyChair platform and all correspondence, reviews and decisions for the authors were managed via EasyChair. However, the conference convenors kept control over the inputting of the reviews into EasyChair. This enabled the convenors to keep on top of the reviewing process, and chase up any late reviews, but also meant a higher workload.

Stream coordinators organised the reviews (two) for the full paper submissions and carried out QA on all the abstracts and panels in their stream. The conference convenors did the second QA on the abstracts and panels and also made decisions on papers that had a wide difference in reviews (taking the advice of the stream coordinators into account).

Authors were advised of the outcome of their submission on 22 April. This date gave delegates plenty of time to take advantage of the Early Bird rate, which finished on 10 May. We were fortunate in that only one full paper was not fully reviewed before the expected notification date. All other authors were notified and that final one notified a week late.

### Submission and review issues

We suggest a later date for submission. We received a lot of requests for extensions and one of the reasons, as several people noted, was that the submission date was at the same time as ARC grant deadlines.

We also suggest that EasyChair is used to its full capacity, particularly for larger conferences. Newcastle was relatively small and manageable but it was a lot of work to manually input reviews, even though it did give a greater amount of control.

There is also a wide disparity in how reviews are carried out with some reviewers giving full detailed reviews to help the authors and others simply including a few words. We asked reviewers to comment on whether papers should be included in a journal or was eligible for a prize and very few suggestions were made. We suggest that the reviewing form is revisited to make the form more user-friendly.

## Venue and accommodation

The conference was held at the University of Newcastle Callaghan campus, 11 kilometres from Newcastle CBD. We utilised several buildings in close proximity: the Great Hall and Purdue Room (for meals, refreshments, meetings and networking), the McMullin Building (for keynotes and screening) and the ICT Building (for concurrent sessions). Because the conference was a University-approved event, we paid no rent for the University spaces, thus saving on venue hire. The University also provided a dedicated conference wifi network and technical personnel throughout the conference to support the main venues and breakout rooms.

The Welcome to ANZCA drinks were held in the Great Hall on the first night with discounted drinks provided by Tulloch's Family Winery and partially supported by Taylor and Francis. The AGM was held in

the Purdue Room and the Executive dinner and conference dinner were held offsite at The Lucky country Hotel and Fort Scratchley historic site respectively.

The convenors arranged for accommodation at the Crowne Plaza in Newcastle and the Newcastle Travelodge. Several other options were made available as suggestions to the delegates both in the CBD and closer to the University. We provided bus transport for the delegates with pick up points at the Crowne Plaza and Travelodge.

## Social events

The **Conference Dinner** was held at Fort Scratchley on Thursday 7th July. Delegates paid \$90 for a three-course meal and drinks (open bar with a limit). There were 88 people who went to the dinner. There was also entertainment organised.

The convenors organised a **Welcome Drinks** event on Wednesday 6th July after the day's sessions finished. Taylor and Francis provided sponsorship towards the event and Tullochs Winery provided the wine. This event went from 5.00pm to 6.00pm.

The **Past Presidents Dinner** took place on Wednesday 6th July and seven past presidents, along with Phillip, went to Masons Restaurant in the Newcastle CBD for dinner.

On Thursday afternoon, while the AGM was held, the other delegates watched a film suggested by Joe Griffiths from UON's Wollotuka Institute. *Our Generation* is a documentary film by Sinem Saban & Damien Curtis, and is intended to raise awareness of issues that Aboriginal communities are still facing today.

The conference website also had links to tourism activities in Newcastle and the surrounding regions as well as a free NAIDOC Week screening. Newcastle Region library, in partnership with the University's Wollotuka Institute, organised a free screening of the 2015 CinéfestOz award-winning documentary *Putuparri and the Rainmakers*, directed by Nicole Ma.

## Conference personnel

**A/Prof Phillip McIntyre:** conference co-convenor, organising committee chair, Co-editor of Proceedings, CRP special edition (Feb 2017), GMJ-AU special edition (late 2017), edited book (2017).

**Dr Janet Fulton:** conference co-convenor, conference organiser (project manager), Co-editor of Proceedings, CRP special edition (Feb 2017), GMJ-AU special edition (late 2017), edited book (2017).

**Ms Caitlin McGregor:** co-organiser of the postgraduate and ECR pre-conference day symposium, assisted with conference organisation, co-editor of Platform journal for post-grad papers

**Ms Liz Goode:** co-organiser of the postgraduate and ECR pre-conference day symposium, co-editor of Platform journal for post-grad papers

**Ms Ashley Grogan:** Ashley did a formal work placement as part of her third year Communication Professional Placement course. She wrote social media postings, took photos, ran errands, engaged with conference delegates, answered emails and other enquiries, and supervised other student volunteers.

**Conference Committee:** A/Prof Phillip McIntyre, Dr Janet Fulton, Dr Susan Kerrigan and Dr Michael Meany, all from the School of Design, Communication and IT.

**Student volunteers:** seven students volunteered over the week of the conference. The students were Communication students majoring in PR/journalism/media production. Their roles on-site included delegate assistance and guiding, AV/IT assistance, Registration Desk assistance, contribute via social media, take photos, record sessions and other tasks. Each volunteer provided their availability and a roster was formed to ensure they all had an opportunity to be involved and the opportunity to see keynotes and presentations. Volunteers were provided with a thank-you letter and certificate of appreciation for their involvement.

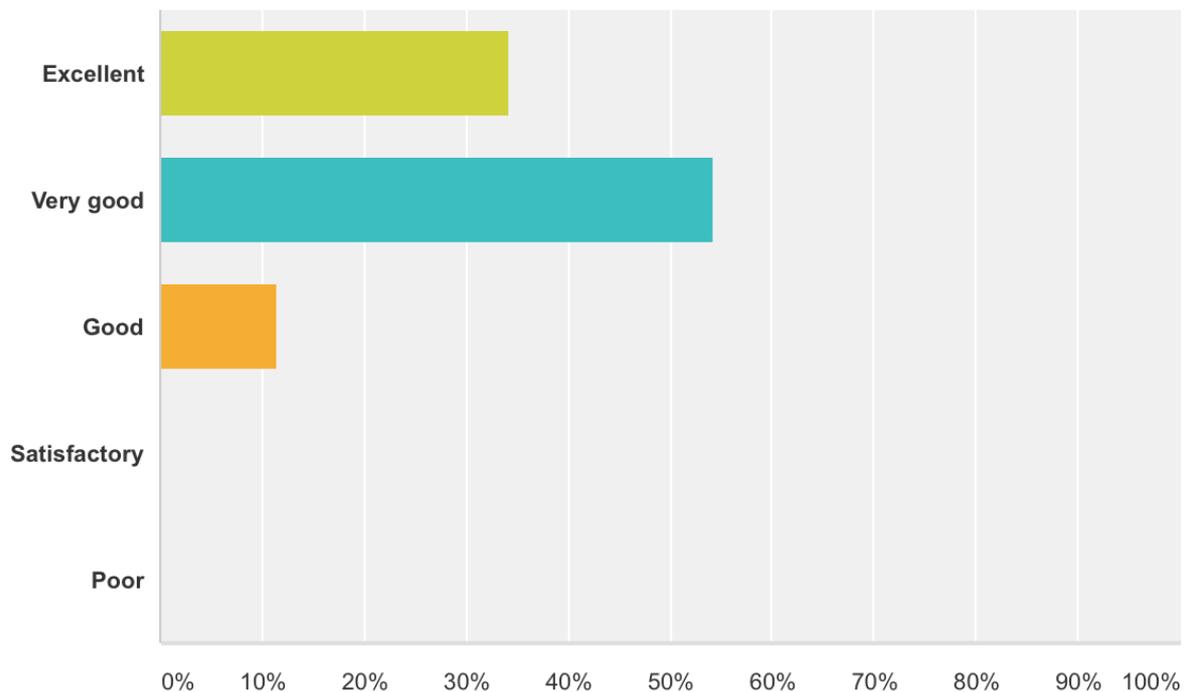
**Other:** Assisted by the professional staff (Dr Kyle Holmes, Ms Debbie Cook, Mrs Kate Reid, Mrs Jasmine McGee, Mrs Leanne Fitzgibbon) and the technical staff (Mr Daniel Conway, Mr George Hyde and Mr Andrew Evans) in the School of Design, Communication and IT. Academics in the School of DCIT and members of the Communication and Media Research Group also volunteered to do reviewing and chair concurrent sessions.

## Graph of conference rating

We conducted a survey of delegates a week after the conference and received 35 responses with the majority of delegates rating the conference highly.

### What is your overall assessment of the conference.

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Excellent	34.29% 12
Very good	54.29% 19
Good	11.43% 4
Satisfactory	0.00% 0
Poor	0.00% 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Total
Submission process	14	16	2	1	0	2	35
Registration process	13	20	2	0	0	0	35

Information available online	13	20	1	0	0	0	34
Structure of the conference (schedule, timing, session structure, etc.)	13	11	7	2	1	0	34
Quality of keynotes	16	10	9	0	0	0	35
Quality of presentations and panels	8	21	6	0	0	0	35
Quality of material circulated by the organisers	11	18	5	0	0	0	34
Conference venue/facilities	10	13	6	4	0	0	33
Organisational arrangements for and during the conference	14	15	6	0	0	0	35
Social events	5	14	5	4	0	2	30
Networking opportunities	10	18	3	3	0	0	34
Post-grad and ECR Day (if applicable)	8	4	1	0	0	6	19