

# Landscaping Australia Inc Conference

~ an outline of important subjects covered



Yes it's all been and gone! Was it all worth it? Everyone at the Conference had a good time and thought it was.

But the big question is “**where on earth were you?**” These get together events are a chance to make friends with other younger and yes older Landscapers around Australia. The chance to exchange views with like minded individuals is unquestionably invaluable. But it doesn't stop there. Seeing recently completed projects like the one at Ballast Point and its fabulous view of Sydney was not to be missed. You will have also experienced the formal Garden at Castle Hill designed by Rolling Stones with its complicated fountain & water channels. The complicated environmental garden installed by Simpson Landscapes will undoubtedly set a new standard of excellence for Commercial Landscaping. Also seen was a Landscape project at Sydney University where everyone enjoyed lunch on the lawns.

Well, if you missed it all the good news is that your next chance to experience where our industry is heading will be at the proposed next **Conference in Perth in 2013**. So start planning now. An immense amount of planning goes into these events and it's all there to make your job as a Landscaper just that bit easier.

- Two of the popular speakers at the conference were well known Landscape Contractors and both were members of our NSW Association. Both freely gave a no holds barred account of how they had successfully built their companies by structuring their organisations to suit their markets. Really valuable advice for up and coming Landscapers.
- Green roofs and Green Walls are on the go and an outline of their significance in a world experiencing environmental change was given by Queensland based company, Plantup. The thought of having to climb up vertical multi storied walls for a living in the future really means we will need a head for heights.

- Industry training, now even more important than ever, was the subject chosen by a representative of Tafe. A rundown of changes to future Tafe courses was given and in the process it will enable young Landscapers to establish a better career path. The general public increasingly have higher expectations of Landscapers abilities and therefore we really must keep up with what is required of us. Landscape Australia through trade get togethers like this conference and awards, are a chance to hear about important issues facing us all.
- An eye opening account was given of where the future of communications is going. The take up of chat rooms like Twitter, Facebook or YouTube and the many other internet sites is quite breathtaking and is affecting the way we do business. Generation 'Y' might be in touch with this but for the rest of us it's a bit challenging. Emails just maybe a thing of the past in the near future!!
- The amount of heat stored in materials used in building our cities, including Landscapes, was the subject of another speaker. Known as the Heat Island Effect it is the primary cause of concern about excessive heat during summers. Hence the increased interest in roof gardens and permeable paving etc.
- An update of fungal attack infecting members of the Myrtaceae family of plants is spreading rapidly in coastal areas along the East coast. While winter months will slow it down, just how far it will travel will really only be known when we emerge from winter. It has already wiped out some flower growers in Queensland. Plants like eucalypts, melaleucas, callistemon etc are likely to be affected. An officer from Queensland Primary Industries gave us the current picture.

These were just some of the topics covered. Landscaping Australia realizes that members need to keep abreast of these issues so a transcript of the issues is available on our website. Meantime we would really appreciate an email from you with your views on what was offered or if you have other views by all means let us know.

Click here to email [info@landscapingaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@landscapingaustralia.com.au)

We are particularly keen to know if you are having difficulty in attending these events. So please let us know what they are. You may well have experienced something in this event or even past events that you really appreciated so again let us know what they are.

**FULL CONFERENCE PAPERS PHOTOS AND THE WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE EXCELLENCE AWARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR NATIONAL WEB SITE.**

Click on: <http://www.landscapingaustralia.com.au/events/landscaping-australia-201/>

Lachlan's Old Government House was a great venue particularly as it was the site of Australia's first landscape and the Awards Night was really a great night. Getting involved with these events could be the catalyst for creating a new future.

Don't forget to mark your diary and start making plans for the National Landscape contracting event in Perth in mid 2013.

**Landscaping Australia Inc**

