



It's a Wrap... Eden Conference 2019 a HUGE success

The Eden in Oz & NZ conference held in Brisbane, Australia, hosted more than 140 national and international delegates in October 2019. This was the first event of its type held in the Southern Hemisphere since 2006. What a marathon it was!!!

The conference theme, *"living a meaningful life is a risky business"* aimed to challenge the narrative around risk and empowerment of residents/clients and staff.

At a pre-conference networking workshop, the Tribes of Eden came together to educate, celebrate and plan for the future. Dr Bill Thomas was thankful for all that we've achieved to date, but we should remain dissatisfied with progress. We need to continue to disrupt the status quo.

Throughout the two and a half days we were able to come together to share our stories, to listen with intent and celebrate all that is great about the work that we do and realise that there is more we can all do. Using the three transformations of Culture Change - Personal, Operational and Physical, participants were able to choose from a variety of speaker and topic options. Presentations from Australia, USA, New Zealand and Singapore provided contemporary and thought provoking topics that inspired many to challenge their own ideas around ageing. Keynote speakers got us questioning the 'why' of what we do and that whilst we may be doing some excellent work in changing the culture of care, we must continue to challenge and be dissatisfied with our progress.

Innovations were highlighted in our Posters exhibition; delegates engaged with each other and the elders rocked the house by telling us what they loved about where they lived. Site visits occurred for our international visitors from the USA, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Our fabulously talented Eden trainers were easily identifiable as room hosts. For some, they were also presenters sharing their story or that of others. It was wonderful to celebrate all the good that we are doing as an antidote to the negative stories we hear from the Aged Care Royal Commission in Australia. As Dr Bill Thomas noted, the work we are doing and have done to date is great, but we must remain dissatisfied with our achievements and continue to challenge the norm. If we become desensitised to the current status, we won't improve or grow.

There is much work to do. We are all charged with fighting ageism and improving the lives of Elders...one person at a time. There is MAGIC to make!





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The Tribes of Eden gathered together...



Ready, Set, Go...

Speed networking & Team Building





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Our past and present Eden leaders - L-R - Petra Neeleman, Bill Thomas, Cathy Meyer, Chris McMahon and Sally Hopkins, current ED.



Dr Bill Thomas with the Bonnie Robinson and the Howick Baptist Healthcare team from NZ.



Wesley Mission QLD - Eden Associates and advocates



60th Birthday celebrations - Lorraine Benson, Annie Gibney, Bill Thomas, with Petra Neeleman.



EiON trainers, Board, Past Chairs, Dr Bill Thomas, enjoying the view after day 1.



Dr Bill Thomas, Marlene Benson, Dr Al Power



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The SLEC team from Singapore visited Tenille Griffiths & the team at Dementia Australia's Eden Registry Member Centres on the Gold Coast prior to the Conference. They also presented a number of poster ideas and CEO, On our final day, Professor Kenny Tan urged us to think Global and Local - Glocal in the future.



Room Monitors and Eden Angels - Shawn Ringelsein, Jill Woodward and Chris McMahon.



The team from Salvation Army Hong Kong and Eden Hong Kong also joined us for this event. Lto R - Shan, Sally H, Bill Thomas, Benson Ip, Shirley Wong, Jody Mack.



Room Monitors and Eden Angels - Davina Solomon and Juliette Tuckey



Sally Hopkins, Bill Thomas and Ruth Ryan from South Australia



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Our Sponsors found their Tribe

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