

CONGRESS

Architecture Student Congresses in Australia, New Zealand and PNG from 1963-2024

Prologue

This book is the twice-hurried result of research gathered over the last few years, which sets out to remind students who are attending Agency in Sydney in 2017 that student-led Congress has a long and marvellously incohesive (and sometimes incoherent) history in Australasia.

It dates back – at least we think – to 1963, when some New Zealand students invited Aldo van Eyck to Auckland to talk about the Social Aspects of New Housing. An organised mass gathering of architecture students has happened somewhere around New Zealand or Australia at least thirty-two times since.

Despite, or perhaps because of this congresses incongruous history moments of important agency are frequent: Buckminsterfuller called it the ‘the most ...’ .. The Auckland 19XX congress led to a complete rewrite of the curriculum at the School of Architecture there. SoNA was formed out of the 1997 congress in X, and the NZ equivalent was founded after the Wellington congress ten years later. The 2011 Adelaide congress continued a tradition of providing space for indigenous discussion with the first meeting of the International Network of Indigenous Architects.

This modest & messy bootleg booklet is the second edition following its first print in 2011 for Flux in Adelaide. This edition includes new information on events both past and present, and is still the start of a larger project to more coherently collect and productively reflect on the residue of Congress in Australasia. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have.

There are hopes for a more serious and scholarly attempt to document and understand the congress. If you have any info, stories, yarns or old photos please talk to one of us.

Byron and Barnaby.

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Title: unknown

Speakers: unknown

"When I was a final year student (around 1960 or 1961) a group of us went to a Congress in Sydney about which I don't remember much except spending a night in the Phillips Street Jail after 3 of us went on an all day crawl attempting to visit every pub in Sydney -which we regarded as a great achievement at the time."

-Anonymous Professor of Architecture.



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves sale of the birth control pill. Construction begins on the Berlin Wall, Conrad Schumann flees from East Germany. Indonesia invades New Guinea to annex western New Guinea, formerly known as Netherlands New Guinea.

World Population: 3,039,451,023

Auckland

Title: Housing Developments around the Pacific; or “Social Aspects of New Housing”

Speaking:

Aldo Van Eyck, Mike Austin, Peter Dalton, Max Clark, Graham Sheather, David Carr, R.M. Waite, G.J. Fielding, Jeremy Beckett, Keith Sinclair, Gerhard Rosenberg

Organisers:

Ivan Tarulevicz, Roger Dodd, Peter Sheppard, John Sinclair, John Pezaro, Brian Halstead, Dennis Smith, Alan Scott.

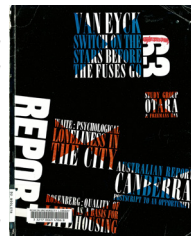
“The event was an ambitious undertaking, and the part of Ivan Tarulevicz in its success cannot be overestimated. In order to fund the congress [citation here on other fund sources], he and his future wife, Pam, sold advertising in Report ‘63 - the published congress proceedings. The report also included discussion following three of the papers and some annotation of mass audience response. The student newspaper - Craccum - included a letter from van Eyck, extracts from the ‘Team 10 Primer’ and images of the orphanage from the Architects’ Yearbook.”*

“Following the discussion on privacy and security, van Eyck spoke. Initially he expressed bewilderment at the presentation and claimed to be speechless. Then he embarked upon a lengthy criticism of the suburban house and what it indicated. Observing the plan of a generic New Zealand house he said that he could find no evidence of human interplay. He could not perceive the relationship between this house and its neighbour, and by extension, with the community and the city.

‘If that is the aspiration of the New Zealander then I don’t think that he has the right to occupy a country of such size and beauty,’

Van Eyck said.”

Robin Skinner, 2000.



THE NEW
ZEALAND HOUSE



M. R. Austin, B.Arch. (Hons.), A.N.Z.I.A.
Architect
Auckland



Publications:

Skinner, R D. (2000). “Dutch Treat: the van Eycks in New Zealand.” Formulation Fabrication: The architecture of history: proceedings of the seventeenth annual conference of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand. Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand. (pp. 287-296). Wellington, New Zealand.

Dick Scott (ed.), Report ‘63: a report of the Pacific Congress, Auckland, Architectural Students’ Society, 1963.

Title: New Materials, New Architecture

Speakers: unknown

550 Students in attendance

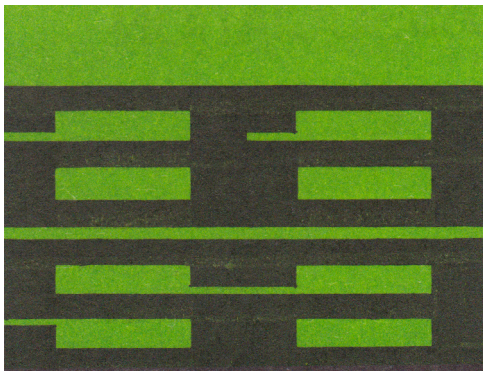
"AASA was a major presence in architectural education in the second half of the 1960s.....welcomed in some schools and aggressively resisted, it seemed, by others. Its base became the AASA "Office/HQ" in Drummond Street, Carlton...a wonderful old terrace house rented by a variety of students....including Lecki Ord and Ian Godfrey, the central driving force behind AASA. But students from most, probably all, schools were sent as reps to occasional AASA Council meetings. It was hard travelling for some, especially those from Perth, and money was scarce. Actually times were quite different from now.

This was a remarkably energetic national student organisation, run on a shoestring with enormous good will and commitment from afar....in a time when communication was by expensive trunk telephone calls, occasional telegrams and letters through the post.

The Conference was principally at Melbourne University. It was totally focussed on Building Materials ...which I suppose was good for sponsorship and some of the speakers were good at somehow suggesting to me, the first years student, that architecture held enormous new creative possibilities with some wonderful new materials..... My memory says Plastics were going to be important (as the Dustin Hoffman character in The Graduate was going to be told several years later).

I can remember the funny and creative Architecture Students Review which I think was on stage at RMIT and a tradition of that School."

John Byrne



Sydney (UNSW & Canberra sidetrip) 1965

Title: unknown

Speakers: unknown

"It began with a train trip to Queanbeyan where the train was parked in a siding and we were told this was the accommodation for two nights. Being ill-prepared for thisand without bedding (my excuse is that we weren't told!) ...I froze the first night as the Queanbeyan temperature in May dropped below zero (actually in those days... to 28 degrees Fahrenheit). The next day...sunny of course...I bought blankets in an Army Disposal Store in Canberra's Civic which made the second night tolerable. I can't remember much about the conferenceheld principally in the Academy of Sciences and maybe bits of ANU, I think, but the speakers?

Given that I don't think there was an architecture school in the ACT, there was no local host group so the trip there was courageous organisation. After several days it was train back to Sydney and the rest of the conference at UNSW which was a much smaller campus than now.

Again I can remember nothing about key speakers or conference themes if any... (although there was an associated art exhibition by students. Perhaps I remember Peter Johnson, later (or already?) Professor at Sydney. I don't think Harry appeared.

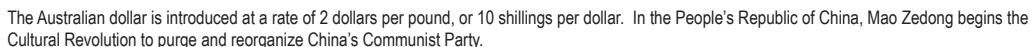
The only other students from Adelaide were Fourth Years like trumpet-playing David Cant and Alastair Angus (who I think has more recently turned to wine-making). They were accepting of the shy lone Second Year, for which I was grateful.

I can't remember where I stayed...perhaps with family friends on the north shore.

At some point I ended up via ferry in a flat in Manly with the Fourth Years and some nurses they knew.....but not enough of them.

Still it was my first trip to Sydney and Canberra....exciting urban places for quite different reasons."

John Byrne.



Title: City Synthesis

Speakers: Tony Gwilliam, Geo Ponti, Harry Seidler

We travelled by train from Adelaide for two nights and a day, arriving in what seemed a suburban station at South Brisbane. Quite a contrast in scale to the grand stations in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney we has passed through but, we were assured, this was as far as the line went. ...it didn't yet cross the big river to the city centre. Another urban learning experience.

The conference was mainly...totally?...at QIT's Gardens Point campus next to the city, Parliament House and the river (not yet cut off by a freeway).

I can't remember a theme but I do remember two international speakers...Gio Ponti (Founding Editor of "Domus" magazine) and Tony Gwilliam from the UK. I also remember we got conference satchels that were made of clear plastic with an attached integral blow-up cushion section with pink feathers inside. Ah well. It's probably still somewhere in the attic.

On the train trip back south towards Sydney, I drew the short straw and got to try unsuccessfully to sleep in the steel bar and wire mesh luggage rack of the shared apartment...why do I remember that more than the lectures?

John Byrne

Title: Creativity

Speakers: Unknown

Reported in ink #1

'By the way Student involvement versus profession involvement'

"Here are the figures:

Percentage of students attended Hobart convention – 6.9%

Percentage of RAlA architects attended their convention in Hobart – 1.6%"

Comment by student representative

"We've also had troubles with our Institute (NZIA). A few years ago there was just no communication at all..... you know, both bodies could be dead. The recent interaction started with the students in one of our interminable political wrangles. We sent a telegram to the Institute, telling them that we had no confidence i them whatsoever. All of a sudden they started taking notice of us. They invited us to their meeting, and as a result of this we publish some rather rude little articles. We now have a member on the Council of the Auckland Branch of the Institute.. In fact, they have helped us in many ways. A lot of the money which paid for the NZ students to come over here was, in fact, raised by the NZIA. All this doesn't mean to say they are entirely good."

Bill Benfield (Auckland Uni)



Cedric Price - Seminar at Art School

all 3 (incl. original captions) from "ink" issue 1
AASA



Top: John Dalton / Esherick / Price / Smith / McNeill – foreground – at Closing Art School.

Bottom: Ian Godfrey / Joe Esherick / Paul Ritter / Cedric Price / Dirk Bolt / Maurice Smith / Barry McNeill –hunched. Session."

Title: AASA Adelaide Convention

Speakers: Balkrishna Doshi, Gary T. Moore, Dr Jane Abercrombie.

The Brisbane convention in 1967, "City Synthesis" and at Hobart in 1968, "Creativity" continued the pattern drawing large numbers of students from throughout Australasia and sponsoring international and local participants. The Adelaide convention plans to break open the architectural format and allow students to form their own relationships with 20 special guests drawn from a wide range of diciplines [sic] in Australia and overseas.
-Ink #3. AASA Publications Ink.

The number of registered participants at the 1969 convention was 254, of which 244 were students. This is approximately 6.8% of the architecture student population in Australia and New Zealand, and about the same proportion as attended Hobart convention in 1968.

-Ink #4. AASA.

"Since I was nominally the Chairman of the Organising Committee (whatever that meant....), it is hard to be clinical about it. And clearly I could go on for days about much of the detailI have no doubt my friends and colleagues could equally and from different perspectives. There were significant dramas before and during the eventyou can't know what it's like to commit to delivering a serious money-involved event for hundreds of students from around Australia with virtually no support from your own School (indeed, virtual opposition), with a volunteer group of fellow students from both of the two adjacent schools (UofA and SAIT), to the annoyance of the HOS, and therefore no real authority to make hard decisionsneed I go on?..... unless you've done it! It's a mad exhilarating creative scary uncontrollable too-public too-responsible fast-learning potentially-long-term-scarring wonderful never-to-be-forgotten exercisethat only those on the inside can begin to comprehend. Enough said.

We held it in a central city four-storey brick and timber warehouse (next to the Queen Adelaide Club, just back from the North Terrace boulevard and along the street from the two Schools) which was to about to be demolished by the Council for a multi-storey carpark.

We persuaded the Council to let us use it.....and I remain convinced that contemporary regulations would not permit how we occupied it. ...did wonderful student things in it. But it was tremendous and quintessentially inner urban Adelaide and brilliantly located.

We did the talking on the top floor, had social events on the street-level ground floor, and I am inclined not to talk about how some of the other floors might have been used."

AASA Adelaide Convention May 24-31

ADELAIDE CONVENTION is happening May 24 - 31.

Information is streaming out of Adelaide to all schools. Here are a few special points.

OVERSEAS PARTICIPANTS
Dr. Jane Abercrombie - U.K., biology, psychology, education.

Balkrishna Doshi - India, worked with Corbu, Kahn in India.

Gary T. Moore - U.S.A. Design Methods Group, Berkeley.

ACCOMMODATION
Somewhere in Adelaide - cheap - all together.

REGISTRATION
Fee paid as soon as possible, in one lump, or in small doses.

AASA Members - \$20, wives - \$10.
Others - \$30, wives - \$15.

Join 400 architecture students from all over Australia and New Zealand in one mind-bending week! Watch out for AASA Convention Newsheets.

ASK YOUR CLUB'S AASA REPS FOR FURTHER FACTS.



1969 AASA Adelaide
Lecki Ord pictured centre, John Byrne on her right

Sydney

1970

Title: Unknown

Speakers: Buckminster Fuller, Dennis Crompton, Christopher Alexander, Tony Dugdale

Perhaps by now....and after AdelaideI was probably over them and really focussed on finally finishing an Architecture degree.

If I retained a focus it was on AASA as an organisation.

Back in Adelaide, students had done great things during the middle and later part of the sixties, in building links with the profession and the community, including a spectacular exhibition structure in a prominent public place on North Terrace as a contribution to one of the biennial Adelaide festivals.

These were dramatic times in the community and, as architectural students, we also had big dramatic rumbles, reported from time to time in the major media, involving students, the School, the university, graduates and the profession.

In the midst of all this, I had also been in the History and Politics Schools of the Arts Faculty and seen how they handled divergent views. Another seminal moment..

So an architectural students conference in my final year 1970 was probably a different prospect for me.

It was held I think in the Law School itself in the Sydney CBD but I seem now to remember little about it.

I was however travelling with a beautiful lady ...so may have been distracted. I intend no disrespect for the organisers."

John Byrne

Singapore

1970

("Sing Seventy" Singapore congress abandoned)

MacDonald family massacre: Jeffrey R. MacDonald kills his wife and children at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, claiming that drugged-out "hippies" did it.
The first Earth Day is celebrated in the U.S. World Population: 3,706,618,163

Auckland/Warkworth 1971

Title: Unknown

Speakers: Sim van der Ryn, Serge Chermayeff, Doc Toy, Warren Chalk, John Scott, Roger Walker, Francis Woods, John Reid, Gordon Dryden, Jim Ritchie, Tom Taylor, Owen McShane, Paddy Grant

Organisers: Kerry Francis, Hunter Gillies (speakers), Julian Feary (publication/photos/graphics)

The first thing to be said was that these students were incredibly serious even if they were not seen that way by their teachers. For instance they criticised the indulgence of previous student congresses blowing the budget on entertainment."

Michael Austin, 2005. "Re:Congress"

The original 1971 Congress had been a hugely important part of our architectural learning. It had taken an enormous amount of physical and emotional energy. It lasted over two years from the time when we first began until the final resolution of the finances. It had involved us in a struggle with the institution - the school of architecture.

It chewed people up, spat them out and flung them to the other ends of the earth.

The event had been chewing away at me for years . What had we done?"

***"We saw the city as a place of fragmentation
diversion
dilution
We wanted an event that was
Intense
spontaneous
participatory
constructive
and
that had a sense of community."***

"We had in our midst one of the most formidable architectural thinkers of the 20th century and we categorised him, arrogantly, as one of the time warped greying talents, one of the clay footed. We didn't even give him former god status and by the time he had spent a few hours at Warkworth his shoes were certainly covered in clay. And we ignored him.

So what I say in hindsight is: Do your homework. Scratch beneath the surface. Find out what all of these people who have been so generously assembled by the organisers have to offer."

Kerry Francis, CtrlShift, 2007 Wellington.



CONGRESS
EMPLOYEES BACK DOWN—BOG BOYS CRAP OUT
SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT RAIN
AMAZING TRUCK KEEPS ON GOING
ONE DEAD ONE MAIMED
VENTURI OUT
VAN DER RYN IN
EDITORS APPOINTED: FEARY FRANCIS GILLIES

Walt Disney World opens in Orlando, Florida. The UNIX Programmer's Manual is published. Operation Grommet: The U.S. tests a thermonuclear warhead at Amchitka Island in Alaska, code-named Project Cannikin. At around 5 megatons, it is the largest ever U.S. underground detonation. Led Zeppelin releases their Fourth Studio album "Led Zeppelin IV" which goes on to sell 23,000,000 copies.

Sunbury

1972

Title: Sunbury Rock Festival

Present: John Andrews, Evan Walker, Peter McIntyre, Gough Whitlam, Barry McNeill.

Sunbury Rock Festival was an annual Australian rock music festival held on a 620-acre (2.5 km²) private farm between Sunbury and Diggers Rest, Victoria, which was staged on the Australia Day (26 January) long weekend from 1972 to 1975. It attracted up to 45,000, and is said to have signalled the end of the hippie peace movement of the late 1960s and the beginning of the reign of pub rock, which maybe meant being less naked, but just as wasted.

Although it was hailed as hosting an all-Australian line-up, it also featured bands from New Zealand. It was financially successful, and incredibly well documented (in video and audio) giving it a unique and lasting status.



Nimbin

1973

Title: Aquarius

The Aquarius Festival was a counter-cultural arts and music festival organised by the Australian Union of Students and sponsored by Peter Stuyvesant. The first festival was held in Canberra in 1971, while the second, and last, was held in Nimbin, New South Wales in 1973.

It is often described as Australia's equivalent to the Woodstock Festival and the birthplace for Australia's hippie movement, which appears to have been a short lived.



Editors note: These were important cultural events in Australian history, however we are still unsure what there exact relationship to Architecture congress history is. We think Tone Wheeler knows, ask him.

Cod War: Joseph Godber, British Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announces that Royal Navy frigates will protect British trawlers fishing in the disputed 50-mile limit round Iceland.

Brisbane to Munduberra 1974

Brisbane to Munduberra, QLD

Organised by Di Ball (nee Davis) and husband.

"I was involved in the organisation of the Brisbane train congress in 1974 which started with a few days in a large tent on Stradbroke and then the train to Gladstone and back to Brisbane through Munduberra and Many Peaks. I don't remember if i have any pics but I have many many stories including the fact that my then husband and I wired the train for sound."

Di Ball

"A PNG colleague, Ken Costigan and I came down from PNG with some students and we joined the Maryborough leg of the journey. Prof Bal Saini, who was Head at UQ at the time was one of the speakers and he is still around."

Golden

Professor Gordon Holden (Organisor of Marketplace 1979)

60 70 80 90 00 10
Lae

1975

Title: unknown

Speakers: Unknown



607080900010

Canberra

1976

Title: unknown

Speakers: Unknown

Nothing else known, but Gevork Hartoonian might know something.

607080900010

Sydney

1977

Title: unknown

Speakers: Alvin Boyarsky

Nothing else known.

Title: Marketplace

Peter Cook, John Dalton, Paul Oliver, William Turnbull, Wolfgang Preisser, Peter Myers, Peter Corrigan, Martyn Chapman, Russell Hall, Peter O'Gorman, Gabriel Poole, Bob Nation, Phillip Cox, David Biernoff, Brian Woodward, Peter Bycroft, Adrian Boddy, Steve King, Ian Sinnamon, Pancho Guedes, Chris Paris, Kenneth Browne, Graham Thiedeke, Peter Skinner, Rod Carmichael, Tone Wheeler, Phil Gibbs.

Organisors:

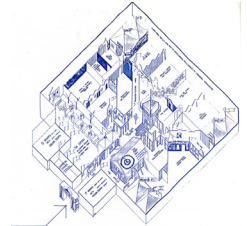
Gorden Holden and Michael Keniger. Brit Andressen also significant role. Joint hosts were UQ and QIT

"Michael Keniger (now Deputy VC at UQ) and I were the joint convenors, but Brit Andressen also had a significant role. The 'Marketplace' theme was set up to have numerous parallel sessions so that people had to choose what interested them, and then to talk to others about what they missed out on.....like a marketplace.

Speakers included Peter Cook, Pancho Guedes, Paul Oliver, John Dalton. The Army loaned us heaps of big tents for accommodation and we set them up on the oval adjoining the Bardon Professional Development Centre, which was the venue for the conference.

The time was late August, I remember this clearly because my son Richard was born during the conference on the second last or last day, and his birthday is 25th August."

Professor Gordon Holden



Title: Gone to Kiwi

Organisers: Vincent Mullins, Dorita Hannah, Nick Bevan, Ken Davis, Kathryn Carter, Tommy Honey et al..

"An aura created by turning the Auckland School of Architecture inside out in an improbable attempt to recreate summer out of season. Banners were made and hung, neon glowed night and day, plays were performed, special sun-peaks and sun-umbrellas were in constant use ... an ambience of casual tempo, softly spiced with more weighty flavours.

"The Canberra students insisted on building a bloody big hat; no-one seemed to know why, but this six-metre wide object quite practically demonstrated the irrelevance of Australian culture for New Zealand conditions..."

"The really enigmatic elements of the Congress were the 30 guest speakers and the 450 registrants (including 120-odd Australians busy complaining about the cold summer and the beer).

"In a social framework riddled with think-big quackery and megalomania it is perhaps understandable to be scared witless by the Paolo Soleri's of this world. It's easy enough to comprehend the motivation behind his work... But the nightmare is in accepting such a radical departure from today's reality and comprehending how Soleri's forms and spaces would work for people.

"One group with an honesty and directness missing elsewhere were the four women architects (Fiona Christeller, Christine McKay, Renate Block and Sarah Treadwell) discussing issues facing them. Despite widely varying backgrounds, the amount they had in common with their involvement in this male-dominated profession appeared to be a surprise even to themselves.

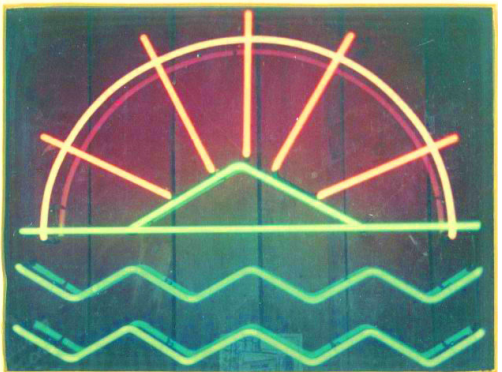
"Overall, this architectural carnival was a tremendous success. There is much this account has failed to mention, not the least of which being the frenetic energy of the organisers in getting Gone to Kiwi into gear. Further, the Congress was greatly assisted by the school's staff, a large number of generous sponsors, the RAIA and the NZIA.

Evzen Novak. NZ Architect, No5, 1983. "Gone to Kiwi"

"When I picked our guest up from his hotel to take him to the opening he seemed furious that his NZ representative had agreed to his taking part... "I am Marcel Marceau the mime, I do not speak". He was also unsure as to why he was opening an architecture congress. However, he mimed being in architecture (walls stairs etc.), made the audience laugh and finished saying that the most important thing was "peace" ... everyone cheered and Gone To Kiwi began in spectacular style.

"I recall that Paolo Soleri was invited to be a key guest but didn't respond and then just turned up."

Professor Dorita Hannah



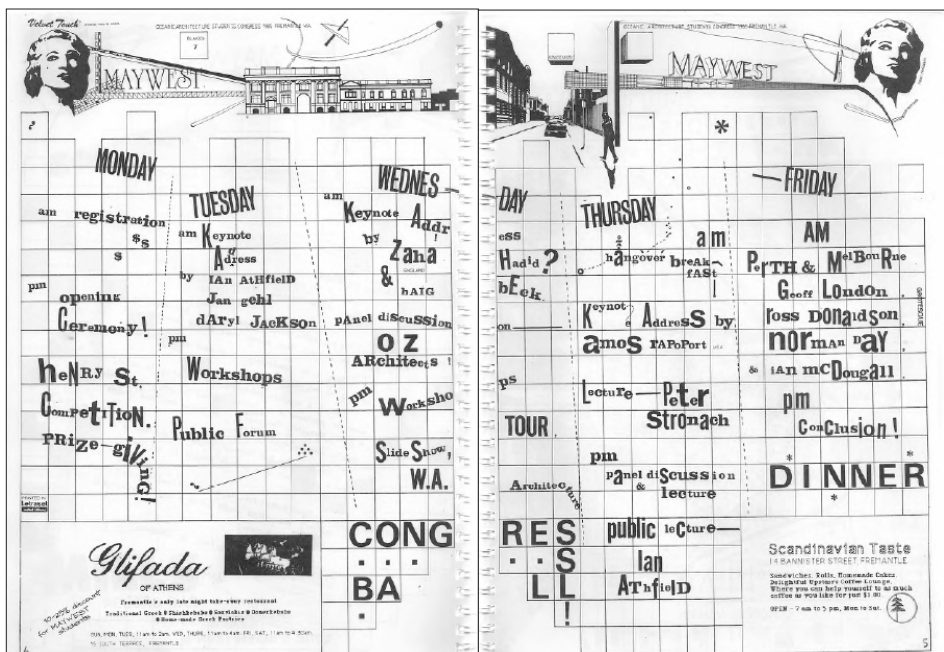
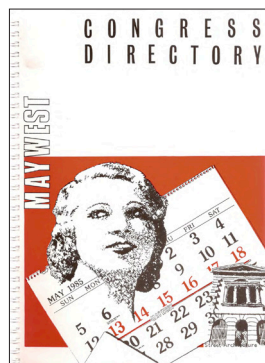
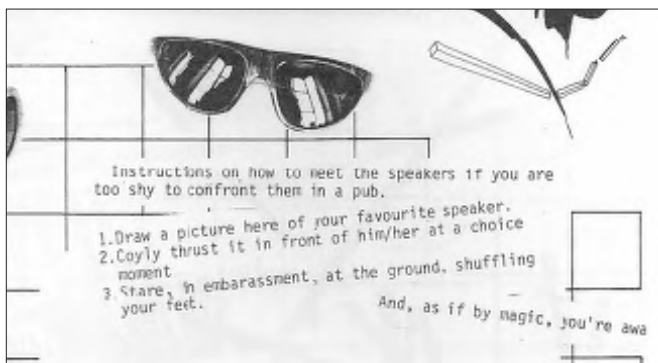
The final episode of M*A*S*H is aired and the record of most watched episode is broken. Manchester, Maine schoolgirl Samantha Smith is invited to visit the Soviet Union by its leader Yuri Andropov, after he read her letter in which she expressed fears about nuclear war.

Perth

1985

Title: May West

Speakers: Ian Athfield, Jan Gehl, Daryl Jackson, Zaha (didn't make it?), Haig Beck, Amos Rapaport, Peter Stronach, Geoff London, Ross Donaldson, Ian McDougall, Norman Day, Bill Hames, Rex Addison, Brian Kloppe, Jeremy Dawkins, Geoff Summerhayes, Peter Overman, Paul Odden.



WrestleMania debuts at Madison Square Garden. Bangladesh is hit by a tropical cyclone and storm surge, which kills approximately 10,000 people.

Title: The Jam

Speakers: John Scott, John Andrews, Ajit Manger, Prue Cotton, Michael Barnett, Lindsay Clare, David Hensel, Andrew Conschens, Robert Morris-Nunn, Adrian Fitzgerald, Peter Wilmott, Annabel Bicevskis, Krzysztof, Peter Skinner, Troppo, Keith Weatherly, Design Makers Cooperative TAS, Leigh Woolley, Keith Streames, David Morris, Patrick O'Carrigan, Barry McNeill, Tim Sinatra, Gary Forward, Geoff Warn, Bevan Rees, Rory Spence, Russell Hall, Christine Vadasz, Spence Jamieson, John Gollings, Paul Pholeros, Tone Wheeler.

Steering Committee: Grant Calder, Lyn Hellewell, Kent James, Scott Jordan, Jonathon Pyefinch, David Roberts, Craig Rosevears, Peter Skinner, Nicki Thomas, Andrew Williamson. (There are more than 30 others listed as supporting this group)

Operational cash-flow: \$120,000. Registration fee: \$75.

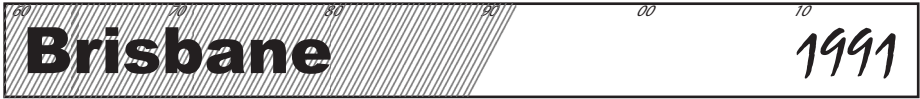
'The organisational and physical work was undertaken by students from all stages in the course ... The committee meetings leading up to the JAM was fraught with tensions between cities, between committees and between friends ... The Jam was really flying by the seat of its collective pants.' Peter Skinner -Last Scrapings of the Jam.

"Despite the lofty aspirations of this formal title (inherited from the Maywest organisation), the congress was to be fundamentally a student conference, and the compressive, culinary, fruity and musical metaphors flowing from the short title, 'The JAM', more accurately conveyed the spirit of the event."
-Peter Skinner, Last Scrapings of the Jam' Collected paper from the 1987 Biennial Oceanic Architectural Education Congress.

"'The Jam' seemed to reflect the changing values and concerns of architecture as a whole with it no longer functioning as part of a social vision with Modernist notions of progress, utopia and unachievable ideas. Architecture seems to be changing tack, re-examining modern theories - why they do or don't work. We seem to be in some sort of historical limbo, just after a great movement and before another - and what an exciting time it is just before birth."
-Kellie Edwards, Student NSWIT (Originally published in Architecture Bulletin NSW RAlA Issue 5/6 1987)

Title: Beyond The Face

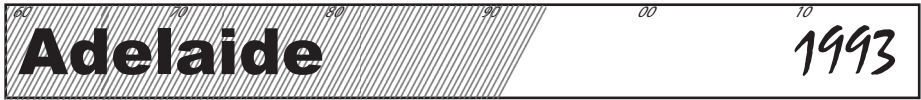
Little Known at this point... Tone Wheeler might know more.



Title: Circus

Speakers: Richard Murphy, Douglas Cardinal, Peter Skinner

Little else known at this point.



Title: Alchemy

Speakers: Bahram Shirdel, Richard Le Plastrier, Lise Ann Couture, Javier Mariscal.

Little Known at this point, but Naomi Stead might know something.

Title: Crossings

Speakers: Michael Sorkin, Dejan Sudjic, Sarah Wigglesworth, Jeremy Till, Neill Spiller, Geoff Warn.

Neill Spiller report in Architects Journal, May 1995:

"Refreshing beam of optimism shines in the Antipodes.

Architectural dogma, with its continuing arrogance (even through the so-called liberation of Modernism) has maintained a stranglehold on creative architectural thought and action. So it was with great expectations that I attended the Crossing Conference, or rather the Biennial Oceanic Architecture and Design Student Conference in Perth, Australia.

Would the 'crossing' theme and its promise to explore the intersections of cultural, sexual, technological, artistic and ritualistic loci with the thin and quickly disappearing trajectory of architecture, be successful? I am pleased to announce that in my mind, speaking as delegate and contributor, as consumed and consumer, it was.

...

"The boyishness of the week was a problem, with Wigglesworth being the only woman speaker, but her perspective during discussions was both illuminating and crucial."

...

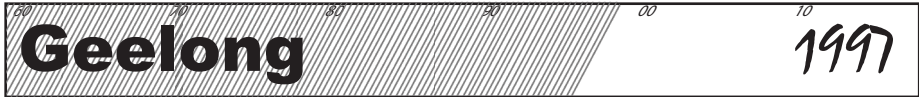
"As the week progressed, i felt that my cyberspatial and nanotechnological alchemic thesis was much more appreciated and considered by these delegates than by their European counterparts. It seemed that the compaction of the space-scape of architecture and its discourses by technology had even more relevance for the geographically isolated Antipodes. The Australian need to be global was explicitly felt and was a refreshing release from the small-minded insularity so often experienced over here [London].

...

"If a conference is deemed successful for educating, delighting and inspiring, whether architectural, socially or philosophically, then this was one successful conference. It promoted optimism about the role of the architect of the future (whether virtual or real, but we can argue about that another time). ...

...

"Save some Winnie Blues and a few stubbies of Redback, I'll be back next time. G'day."



Geelong

1997

Title: morphe:nineteen97

Speakers: Wiel Arets, Itsuko Hasegawa, Greg Lynn, Ben van Berkel, Mark Goulthorpe, Mark Rakatansky, Sarah Chaplin, Sylvia Lavin, Marcus Novak, CJ Lim, Foreign Office Architects, Bernard Cache

After Crossing's 1995, Shannon Bufton, Shayne Lacy and Robert Colosimo instigate an ambitious touring reinvigoration of the national student network. Travelling through the major centres of architecture education, they gain crucial support and interest from the student body, while also holding discussions with RAlA, and former Australasian Architecture Students Association founders, to launch what would become the Student Organised Network for Architecture (SONA). By 1999, Shannon (as SONA's first President) and Shayne launch Terra: student architectures, a "national student journal," which recently published Issue 6 (2011).

Sydney

1999

Title: Flashpoint

Speakers:

Wolf Prix, Erick van Egeraat, Stephen Perrela, Ken Yeang, Vito Acconci, Christine Boyer, James Wines, Mark Wasuita (Diller&Scofidio), Richard Goodwin, Michael Tawa, Peter Brew + Michael Markham, Lynn Churchill, Lindsay Clare + Kerry Clare, Julie Cracknell + Peter Lonergan, Peter Davidson + Donald Bates (LAB), Brian Donovan + Timothy Hill, Peter Droege, Pia Ednie-Brown, Tony Fry, Janet Laurence, Merrima, Gabriel Poole, Leonie Sandercock, Rewi Thompson, Peter Stutchbury, Mackenzie Wark, David Week, Kriz Kizak-Wines,

Organisers: Adrian Lahoud, Malcolm Fryer, Natalie Emmett, Gintas Fraser, Jeanne Tan, Daniel Pavlovits, Zoe Jenkins, Narelle Naumcevski et al...(UNSW)
"Our attention will focus upon political agendas of 'spatial clarification' and their implication of ownership. This coagulation in the relay of movement (and the entropic processes that dissolve it into incoherence) will form a site for our intervention, and provide an open structure for our event. It is our hope that this conference will generate points of conflict and accelerated collapse; and that maybe, amongst the ruins of this contestation, new points of possibility will make themselves evident."

Adrian Lahoud, coordinator,

"It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to FLASHPOINT99: The XIV Biennial Australasian Architecture and Design Student Conference. From its origins the organisers of FLASHPOINT99 were determined that this conference would be different. Through exploration of the complex forces that shape the city, fluidity in discourse would be paramount, seeking not to direct, but to uncover. The conference would be a rare and intense exchange of ideas; a FLASHPOINT."
Malcolm Fryer, coordinator



Text and image from flashpoint99 programme.

Auckland

2001

Title: NZ Script

The ExxonMobil Corporation merger is completed, forming the largest company in the world. Falun Gong is banned in the People's Republic of China under Jiang Zemin. Pluto moves along its eccentric orbit further from the Sun than Neptune. It had been nearer than Neptune since 1979, and will become again in 2231.

Launceston-Hobart 2004

Title: States of Mind 04 | Design Evolution

Speakers: Alisa Andrasek, Manabu Chiba, Ben Duckworth, Mark Dytha, Mehrdad Hadighi, Stephen Hendee, Shadi Nazarian, Jane South, Robert & Brenda Vale, Bostjan Vuga, Leigh Woolley, Bellemo + Cat, Jack Birrell, Mark Burry, Justine Clarke, Eli Giannini, Tim Hill, Adam Haddow, Drew Heath, Tom Heneghan, Step Smith + Ken McBryde, Carey Lyon, Robert McBride, Lucinda Mclean, Andrew Maynard, Dillon Kombumerri + Allison Page, Ian Moore, James Jones + Robert MorrisNunn, Shelley Penn, Paul Pholeros, Aaron Roberts + James Wilson, Gerard Reinmuth + Scott Balmforth, Peter Tonkin, David Travalia + Richard Leplastrier, John Vella, Elizabeth WatsonBrown.

"There had been a five year hiatus between student conferences States of Mind was the resurrection. Because of the large gap between Flashpoint '99 (held in Sydney) and States of Mind none of the organisers had ever attended a student conference before. The conference was organised by the students of UTas and held all around Tasmania, namely Launceston and Hobart, over 5-6 days. There were over 350 attendees from nearly every School of Architecture in Australia including 4 from New Zealand!" **Andrew Kerr - Organisator.**

[Read Andrew's reflections 13 years later in the last pages of this edition!]

'Thank you for giving me the opportunity to contribute to a fantastic, frenetic, challenging, boisterous, demanding and rewarding few days, that has entirely outstripped my expectations.'

-Andrew Mackenzie, Editor, *Architectural Review Australia*.

conference schedule @ 05 07 04 states of mind 04 design evolution		monday 5 launceston	tuesday 6 launceston	wednesday 7 launceston + hobart	thursday 8 hobart	friday 9 hobart	sat sun 10 11 various
9:00	registration + orientation activities @ UTAS INVERESK	emergency management australia keynote lecture (see mood) man chiba (glenelg) fac: tom heneghan @ LECTURE THEATRE 2 UTAS NEWNHAM	keynote lecture australia (see mood) man chiba (glenelg) fac: tom heneghan @ LECTURE THEATRE 2 UTAS NEWNHAM	keynote lecture peter tonkin mermaid nadgig (juss) fac: justine clark	collaborated keynote lecture shadi nazarian (juss) fac: samuel murray	keynote lecture robert + brenna vale (juss) fac: samuel murray	various additional workshops (juss) (juss)
11:00	bus trip to coastlands to visit forestry co-ops (depart inveresk @ 11 am)	break	break	break	break	break	
11:30	contrast gorge	relation 1 translation 1 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	relation 2 translation 2 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	relation 3 translation 3 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	relation 4 translation 4 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	relation 5 translation 5 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	stephen hendee (launceston)
1:00	city walls	break	break	break	break	break	donney
2:00	design centre	therapy 1 rotation 1 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	therapy 2 rotation 2 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	therapy 3 rotation 3 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	therapy 4 rotation 4 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	therapy 5 rotation 5 (see mood) @ UTAS INVERESK	
3:00	q&a	q&a	q&a	q&a	q&a	q&a	
3:30	q&a	q&a	q&a	q&a	q&a	q&a	
4:00	operating @ ACADEMY OF THE ARTS INVERESK	operating @ ACADEMY OF THE ARTS INVERESK	operating @ ACADEMY OF THE ARTS INVERESK	operating @ ACADEMY OF THE ARTS INVERESK	operating @ ACADEMY OF THE ARTS INVERESK	operating @ ACADEMY OF THE ARTS INVERESK	widearea society day valley tour (murray + murray)
5:00		break	break	break	break	break	
6:00	federal hotels keynote lecture (see mood) man chiba (glenelg) fac: andrew mackenzie @ TRANSMISSION THEATRE	keynote lecture concerning the spirit of the architecture a celebration of the life of roger smith fac: matthew hines @ PROCEEDING THEATRE	keynote lecture concerning the spirit of the architecture a celebration of the life of roger smith fac: matthew hines @ PROCEEDING THEATRE	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	break	break	marina aboriginal design unit (collaboration + design) in conjunction with (see mood)
7:00	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART
8:00	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART
9:00	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART	waterfront exhibition 6:30 @ GARDEN OF ART

Back when Congress was a week-long community building exercise. The intense program of States of Mind has rarely been repeated.

Queensland 2006

Title: Finegrain

Sadly due to the unexpected passing of mentor, Paula Whitman, Finegrain is cancelled.

The CIA admits that there was no imminent threat from weapons of mass destruction before the 2003 invasion of Iraq. NASA announces that the Mars rover MER-B (Opportunity) has confirmed that its landing area was once drenched in water. The pickled heart of Louis XVII of France is buried in the royal crypt at Saint-Denis.

Title: CtrlShift07

Speakers: Nathaniel Corum, Liang Jingyu, Ou Ning, Alexis Rochas, Bruce Stewart, Hugh Tennant, Mark Leong, Natalie Butts, Andrew Maynard, Ian Cassels, Nicky Hager, Rau Hoskins, Andrea Rickets, Ellen Anderson, Gregory More, Wan Azhar, Martmut Seichter, David Trubridge, Eoghan Lewis, Regan Gentry, Judy Cockeram, Mark Burry, Timothy Hill, Peggy Deamer, Jeffrey Inaba, Sam Kebbell, Ray Cole, David Mitchell.

Organisers: Alain Bruner, Barnaby Bennett, Joey Goei, Sally Ogle, Eloise Veber, Byron Kinnaird, James Coyle, Katherine Roberts, Yijing Xu, Nick Sargent, Jenni Hagedorn, Daniel Davis, Kurth Rehder, Beth Cameron, David Randall Peters, Matt Watson

"Control Shift 07 was the most creative, stimulating We carry the sinking desperation of a species cornered and dare I say it - professional conference that I have by its own short sightedness. We are young and fucked. ever attended by a significant margin. The student It's no wonder there is cultural astigmatism that prefers organisers had their fingers on the architectural pulse to watch the infinite rise and fall of celebrity life rather with their establishment of the three conference then enjoy the sun setting on our flagrant global culture. streams – The role of the architect, the education of the Architect and Future environments. Architectural As humans working in and around the discipline of education came in for critique as well. The students architecture it is proving difficult to know how to act in assembled a stunning and diverse group of around this globalized multi-cultural world. Very difficult. The 24 world, regional and local architectural innovators, situation is almost serious enough to stop us dancing critical thinkers and experts for the week long and having fun. (Almost) As designers we are presently wedged between two great self imposed hindrances. The first is external; we currently face humanity's greatest moment of crisis; our entire global system of life is threatening to destroy itself. The other is internal, the all too obvious scars from our previous proud attempts to save ourselves from speculated unknowns or others, the self proclaimed battles against our common enemies, be they communism, drugs, terrorism, SARS, or Y2K.

Mark Southcombe

"You guys were insane." Andrew Maynard



We exist in a thin space between fear and desperation.
Barnaby Bennett and
Ctrl Shift 07 Crew



There were: 88 presentations in 6 rainy days, 157 attendees, 20 mentors, 33 speakers, 2 powhiri, 18 crew, 20 bottle openers, 11 musical performances, 1 elephant, 40 sponsors, 15 international speakers. 48 international visitors, 800 bottles of Foxton Fizz, 10 missing wine glasses, 73,000 hits on the website, 2000 visitors to our Second Life island, and the whole congress was broadcast live and direct on the web with over 300 people a day watching proceedings.

The final book of the Harry Potter series, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, is released and sells over 11 million copies in the first 24 hours, becoming the fastest selling book in history. Multiple suicide bombings kill 572 people in Qahtaniya, northern Iraq. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopts the Red Crystal as a non-religious emblem for use in its overseas operations.

Title: RE:HAB

Speakers: Chris Bosse, Mahmoud Saikal, Barry Maitland, Alex Tzannes, Andrew Maynard, Louise Cox, Howard Raggatt, Howard Tanner, Jim Birrell, Karl Fender, Andrew Andersons, Wendy Lewin, Richard Johnson, Peter Tonkin, Tone Wheeler, Todd Rohl, Marcus Trimble, Antionette Trimble, Andrew Nimmo, Graham Dix, Megan Dwyer, Nathan Judd, Chris Milman, Bronwyn Jones

Organisers: Patrick Stein, Nikki Butlin, Lester Yao, Kata Mercer

The RE:HAB Congress was a unique and generous experience, because the organising managed to succeed in a very difficult objective, which is presenting a Survey of the architecture profession, and wider culture, to its delegates. I feel this was a generous and self-less act, and a highly commendable achievement. To compile so many high-quality speakers into the rather unforgiving programme is testament to their commitment to bringing the current state of affairs before the Congress."

Byron (in Spe[a]k Editorial, July 2009)

"Perhaps at odds with its character and lineage as a student event, this year's congress had an orthodox, somewhat Establishment feel. Proceedings were officially opened by the consort of our quasi-head of state, "His Excellency" (a title that organizers were careful to emphasize) Michael Bryce. It felt a little like being at the opening of the Olympics...."

The conference continued very much in this vein, as the (mostly) elder statesmen – Romaldo Giugola, Richard Johnson, James Birrell, Enrico Taglietti, Sean Godsell – were wheeled out to dispense their wisdom to the assembled masses. At least Louise Cox and Kerstin Thompson were there to represent stateswomen. Nonetheless, the Canberra congress was a logistical marvel; it was obvious just how much work the organizers had put into ensuring that the congress ran smoothly, that we were all bed, watered and bussed around."

Andrew Toland, Architecture Australia, November 2009.



The death of American entertainer Michael Jackson triggers an outpouring of worldwide grief. Online, the abundance of people accessing the web addresses pushes internet traffic to unprecedented and historic levels. Astronomers discover GJ1214b, the first-known exoplanet on which water could exist. The deadliest bushfires in Australian history begin; they kill 173, injure 500 more, and leave 7,500 homeless. The fires come after Melbourne records the highest-ever temperature (46.4°C, 115°F) of any capital city in Australia.

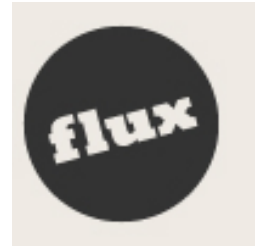
Adelaide

2011

Title: Flux

Speakers: Dr. Ken Yeang, Nathaniel Corum, Charles Holland, Richard Briggs, Lara Calder, Dr. Esther Charlesworth, Stuart Harrison, Benjamin Hewett, Luke Jones, Peter Mallat, Andrew Maynard, Paul Pholeros, Brian Porter, Michael Rayner, Gerard Reinmuth, Melonie Bayl-Smith, Patrick Stewart, Rewi Thompson, John Wardle.

Organisers: Jessica Miley, Sean Mcentee, Samuel Jeyaseelan, RAIA



Professional identity, humanitarian need, financial crisis, climate change, natural disaster.

Flux will feature a balanced program of lectures and workshop-style sessions over three days, with the customary opening and closing parties ensuring an ideal mix of academic and social engagement for delegates. As we have experienced in the past, the biennial student congress will foster rich discussion and debate on the prevalent architectural themes of the day. The congress theme will centre on the position of the architect in the face of societal and environmental change, and economic crisis. With a range of speakers drawn from diverse sectors of the profession, the content will explore the positive ways of responding to challenging circumstances, both within a local context and the broader one of humanitarian and post disaster relief.

		Session 1		Session 2			Session 3		Evening
Time	9 9.30	10	12	1	2	3	3.15		8
Duration (Minutes)	30 30	120	60	45	45	15	120		
Wednesday, 6 July 2011		Arrivals / Fringe Events / Workshop Induction / Registration							Opening Party
Thursday, 7 July 2011	Intro	Andrew Maynard		Gerard Reinmuth Esther Charlesworth Andrew Maynard	Michael Rayner Peter Mallat		Paul Pholeros Brian Porter Patrick Stewart		New Zealand vs. Australia Soccer Match
Friday, 8 July 2011	Crisis Session: Stuart Harrison Rewi Thompson Michael Rayner Richard Briggs	Streamed Sessions	Extended Streams	Luke Jones John Wardle Charles Holland			Nathaniel Corum		
Saturday, 9 July 2011	SONA Forum	Charles Holland	"The Plan" Live Radio Recording	Lara Calder Stuart Harrison Ken Yeang	Ben Hewett Melonie Bayl-Smith		Ken Yeang	Wrap Up	Closing Party
Sunday, July 10, 2011		Departures							

A 9.1-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami hit the east of Japan, killing over 15,000 and leaving another 8,000 missing. Tsunami warnings are issued in 50 countries and territories. Emergencies are declared at four nuclear power plants affected by the quake U.S. President Barack Obama announces that Osama bin Laden, the founder and leader of the militant group Al-Qaeda, has been killed during an American military operation in Pakistan. Arab Spring and Libyan civil war: The United Nations Security Council votes 10-0 to create a no-fly zone over Libya in response to allegations of government aggression against civilians

Title: Nexus

3 - 6 July, 2013 University of Newcastle Nursing theatre, Newcastle City Hall Concert Hall and various student interventions around the city

Speakers: Hedwig Heinsman, Constantin Petcou and Doina Petrescu, Atelier D'Architecture Autogree, Sir Ian Athfield, Philippa Tumubweinee, Marcus Westbury, Jan Van Schaik, . Rory Hyde, Richard Francis Jones, Ingrid Richards and Adrian Spence, Clare Cousins, Cassandra Stronach, Stuart Harrison, Melonie Bayl Smith, Timothy Moore, Lindsay and Kerry Claire, Clare Design, Peter Stutchbury, Peter Tonkin, Marcel Acosta, David Gordon, Rafael Carlos De Oliviera, Annabel Pegrum.

Main organisers : Joseph Larkings, Thomas Marshall, Rianda Barnes

'Sprawl, post-industrialisation, globalisation and the digital age have changed the way we engage with the city, leaving 20th century models behind. Nexus presented an opportunity to reflect on the past, experiment with the urban condition and imagine viable alternatives for what the city may come to mean. Australian and international speakers from the USA, Brazil, Canada, France and the Netherlands came together in Newcastle to present their experiences and thoughts on city and place making, associated experimental architecture, interdisciplinary practice and grassroots urban renewal. Newcastle City Council contributed funds for a student design competition leading to the installation of 5 small scale interventions into the city, with urban placemaking projects occurring around Newcastle throughout the congress. Hedwig from DUS presented the first 3D printed canal house under construction in Amsterdam, Philippa provided insights into the state of modern South Africa and Sir Ian Athfield providing levity about his life long approach to architecture and urbanism.' - Joe Larking



Grand Theft Auto 2 (1999), Game is possibly set in this year. The Simpsons episode, "Future-Drama", is set in this year since it aired in 2005 as the Simpsons siblings, Bart and Lisa, are shown where they will be 8 years into the future. The space program of the People's Republic of China will attempt its first unmanned Moon landing.

Title: People

Speakers: Riccardo Vannucci, Takaharu Tezuka, Julie Stout, Steve Larkin, Anna Rubbo, Laurent Gutierrez, Sandra Manninger, Veronika Valk, Eugenia Lim, Phil Harris, Adrian Welke, Jeremy McLeod, Sean Godsell, Lucy Humphrey, Tone Wheeler, Paul Pholeros, John Gollings, Paul Memmott, Des Rogers.

Workshop hosts: Karen Alcock, Donald Bates, Nigel Bertram, Melissa Bright, Clare Cousins, Mark Healy, Peter Ho, Peter McIntyre, Carey Lyon, Simon Knott, Sam Macalister, Tom Rivard, Kerstin Thompson, Mathew van Kooy, Jan van Schaik, Jeremy McLeod.

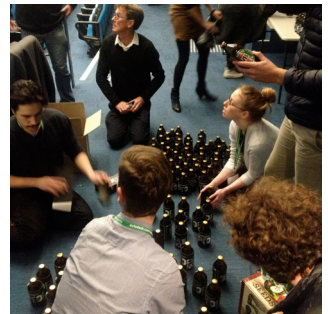
Creative Directors: Mercedes Mambort, Tim Randall and Darcy Zelenko

"Architecture is not about form but formations of people" – Markus Jung

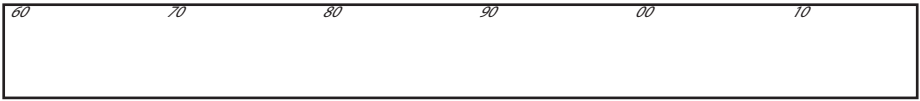
Architecture is about people; from the moment we are born into a room, each of us will have a distinct and personal relationship with the space around us. It is in architecture that we work and rest, it's where we fall in love, where we protest; architecture changes behaviour, it unites and divides, provides shelter and inspiration.

'Everyone involved in this Congress has proven that architecture really is so much more than lines on a page or bricks on a slab. It is in architecture that we work and rest, it's where we fall in love, where we protest; architecture unites and divides, provides shelter and inspiration, architecture is about PEOPLE.'

-Tim Randall, Creative Director.



The Masdar City is scheduled to be completed. Its goal is to be the world's first fully sustainable, zero-carbon, and zero-waste city. Back to the Future Part II (1989): Dr. Emmett Brown, Marty McFly, and Jennifer Parker time travel to October 21 of this year. This is the earliest year the European Space Agency might launch the Darwin Mission to search for exoplanets that could possibly harbour life.



Brisbane 2022

Title: Occupy

Cany Ash, Robert Sakula | Ash Sakula, Patrick Lynch | Lynch Architects, Peter Wilson | Bolleswilson, Grace Mortlock and David Neustein | Other Architects, Marika Neustupny and Lucinda Mclean | NMBW, Future Method Studio, Naomi Stead, Brian Donovan, Jessie Spresser | Spresser, Peter Besley, Julian Raxworthy, Liz Brogden, Stuart Vokes and Aaron Peter | Vokes And Peters, Chez Etym, Barbara, Doug Neale, Paul Hotston | Phorm Architecture + Design, Yohei Omura and Ayano Toki | Parafeeld, Andrew Docchio | Cavill, Morgan Jenkins | Neilsen Jenkins, Owen Café | Blaklash, Angelique Edmonds, Simon Robertson and Steve Mintern | Office Melbourne

Occupy: Cam Changuion, Ella Whittaker Isabella Hindman, Priya Grimes, Yasmin Thacker, Kieran Dolores, Rebecca Jak, Hudson Smith

'Occupy operates as a 'doing word' and expresses our opposition to the trajectory of architecture, whilst serving as a question of how to do better.

We want to animate the city, meet new people, exchange conversations and learn a thing or two along the way. We are a space for students and we see ourselves as a platform for dialogue" Occupy

The City is a Project (dh) and it is in need of questioning on how to do it better.

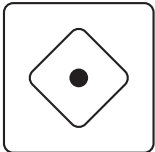
From lectures to park sunset dinners

One week in the middle of Spring

Each day a workshop, a visit, exhibition and presentation

Always a conversation.

All we ever want is to generate a conversation



OCCUPY2022



provide a 2 sentence summary of what year 2022 happened

ChatGPT said:

In 2022, the world continued navigating the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic, with various countries adjusting their responses and recovery strategies. The year also saw significant geopolitical tensions, climate change discussions, and advancements in technology and science.

HOBART

2024

Title: Ground Matters

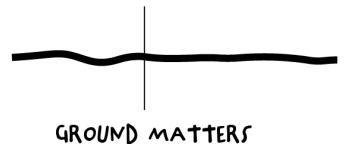
Andrew Steen, Kristiina Kuusiluoma Martino De Rossi, Mat Hinds, Louise Wright, Mauro Baracco, Sarah Lynn Rees, Eleena Jamil, Kerstin Thompson, Timothy Hill, Michael Mossman, Christopher Kelly, Leigh Woolley, Robert Morris Nunn, Stuart Tanner, Julie Eizenberg, Helen Norrie, Alex Nielson, Liz Walsh, Lucy Burke-Smith, Hugh Jones, Tom Marshall

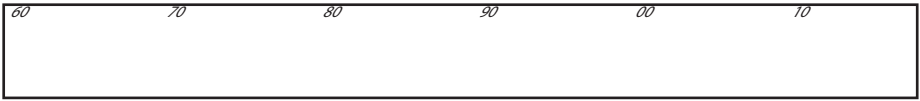
Occupy: Alastair Scott, Angelica Sujana, Brad Reynolds, Jessie Pankiw, Josh Gatehouse, Nuri Mohammad, Ramindu Delwala, Tan Pei Kai, Xing Ting Ng, Joel Garrett

The theme for the 2024 Student Architecture Congress is 'Ground Matters'. The title has a dual meaning: it orients participants to matters of the ground, and to matters of fact; and it sets an agenda that the ground is important, even critical.

'Ground Matters' presents inextricable links between nature and built form, Country and architecture. It is fundamental to all architectural works, but also basic to life on earth. The material of the ground is something we all use and interact with every day, whether uncultivated, landscaped, or covered in manufactured substances. In this way, the ground is a linking element for all.

We had 151 student attendees in Hobart 2024 coming from the following cities: Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Hobart, Launceston, Melbourne, Newcastle, Papua New Guinea, Perth, Sydney.





Radical Revival

Patrick Stein

President SONA 2007; Co-organisator of RE:HAB 09; Delegate, States of Mind 04 & CtrlShift 07.

My first Congress was States of Mind 2004 when I was an impressionable first year student – I went because my SONA Rep told me to. It was one of the single most influential events of my life. Like so many, I consider participation in a Congress to be the highlight of an education, the equal of an intensive master class or international study tour or exchange.

SoM opened my eyes to the importance of what can perhaps most explicitly be thought of as a culture of radicalism. I have since stayed engaged and often binged on about the need to encourage studio culture and student culture generally as the most effective way to leverage education and a critical foundation to advancing architecture.

This radical spirit is perhaps expressed most fully in the Congress, which on a grander scale seeks to build movements engaging many students, and variously the wider profession, other disciplines and the community, to address gaps in architectural education and agendas.

Is radical not somewhat retro or passe? In terms of the Congress content and format it would be possible to argue that at a meta level just about everything has already been done – from going bush to going digital, from design builds to written agendas and protest, from the young and emerging to the old heroes and from starchitects to non-architects. The Congress could do a lot worse than reinterpret past successes – I would love to see amongst other things another Big Steam Train trip! Radical action can be endlessly localised and is always valid while there are concerns that remain to be addressed and new generations to be educated.

The most radical is often emergent and needs to be given space, occurring at the Congress not in lectures but in one particular inspired workshop, a pamphlet drafted at lunch or a conversation late at night in a bar. The Congress is to be cherished primarily as regular gathering of radicals and demonstration of radical potential, critical in inspiring, training and challenging the future leaders of the profession.

Yet the Congress almost didn't make it. When NZScript 2001 didn't happen, there



was a five year gap between Flashpoint 1999 and SoM 2004 – basically a whole generation of students missed out. I think that if the University of Tasmania students hadn't taken it upon themselves to revive the Congress it would have almost certainly been lost. Again when Finegrain 2006 didn't make it I was worried about this, as at that time around the SONA table I was the only one who had been to a Congress and without that experience no one else felt any urgency to overstretch SONA to ensure it continued. If the Victoria University of Wellington students had not put forward CtrlShift 2007 I think the Congress would have likely been lost.

That there is a Congress today at all is radical. The organisers are testament to there still being students with passion and commitment enough to take upon themselves the expansion of architectural education and exploration on behalf of the profession and beyond self gain, and it shows their resilience in the age of insurance required risk mitigation.

The commitment from organisers is extraordinary – it takes 18 months of near full time energy to make the Congress happen. It is not easy – SoM was originally planned for 2003, before being put back a year. The budget for each of the week-long events from 2004 has been approximately \$150,000, which requires a fundraising effort not comparable to any other student activity. The vastly discounted ticket price, necessary to get students judicious in their allocation of time and money to even consider coming, covers well less than half of this expenditure. The Congress also, like all good student activities, relies on a lot of inkind support – RE:HAB with a significant funding shortfall in the middle of the financial crisis was only possible through many of the speakers generously paying their own way.

The Congress has survived and is resurgent – Flux marks an unbroken run of three, and the three previous to Flux all inspired a number of high quality bids for the next. With continuity and institutional backing organisers will undoubtedly be better able to leverage the Congress as a catalyst for change. The recent history of the Congress should inspire faith that, no matter how fragile, the culture of radicalism can be renewed.

[Editors note, this text has been rather brutally edited from a longer, elegant version of this essay by Patrick, which we look forward to publishing in full at a later date.]



ctrlshift meetings. 2007

States of Mind

Andrew Kerr

Architect, Co-organiser of States of Mind 04.

States of Mind 04 | Design Evolution was an amazing blur. Held over five days all around Tasmania (including a mid-week shift from Launceston to Hobart), a bunch of dedicated university students in Tassie pulled off one of the most ambitious programs in the event's history. Over a whole week, 350 people attended from nearly every school of architecture around Australia – including four from New Zealand!

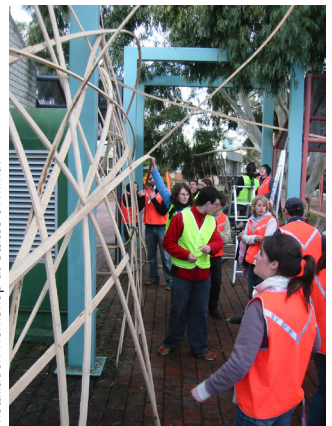
There had been a five-year hiatus between student conferences – momentum was lost and there was a real danger of losing them forever. This frightening prospect wasn't lost on the student organisers who displayed unwavering dedication and commitment. States of Mind was the resurrection.

Because of the large gap between Flashpoint '99 (held in Sydney) and States of Mind, none of the student organisers had ever attended a student conference before. The initial organisation of the conference was held as an elective unit for students, run by the University of Tasmania. The School of Architecture staff provided administrative assistance. Students were responsible for securing sponsorship, managing finances, organising speakers, venues, catering, parties, transport, audio-visual – the lot. This was an era before Creative Directors. Digital cameras were new technology. There was minimal involvement from the Institute or SONA. States of Mind 04 was a student-organised conference hosted by the University of Tasmania.

The focus wasn't on 'big names' or exclusively 'architects' but sought to represent a diverse range of creative fields and up-and-coming talent. The list of guest speakers was impressive, featuring both local and internationals. The presentations were engaging, the workshops down-to-earth and hands-on, but it was the parties that were most memorable. Guest speakers mingled with students over drinks in late-night venues with music pumping in the background. This is what student conferences are all about – the informal exchanges after the formal presentation. The parties. The atmosphere.



States of Mind Organisers, 2004.



Installation workshop at States of Mind.

THE AFTERMATH

At States of Mind 04, Queensland narrowly won the right to host the next conference in 2006 (to be called 'Fine Grain') but the untimely death of mentor and supporter Paula Whitman hampered the organisation. A group of students in Wellington, New Zealand picked up the baton and hosted the successful Ctrl Shift '07 (they had only lost the vote at States of Mind by a handful of votes).

LAMENT/CRITIQUE

Since States of Mind I have attended Ctrl Shift '07 in Wellington, Rehab '09 in Canberra and People '15 in Melbourne. I have noticed an increased influence of, and reliance upon, the Institute. Yes, each conference has been more professional than the previous, but is that what student conferences are really about?

At People, the Creative Directors had to get the 'OK' from the Institute to purchase beer and stubby holders for the lecture delivered by Troppo Architects. It was touch and go. In years gone by this would have been a given. Phil Harriss and Adrian Welke enjoyed their VB.

There is a risk of homogenisation – nothing to distinguish the student conference from the national Institute one. It used to be the role of student conferences to provoke, piss-take and party. There's nothing wrong with informal, impromptu, rough-around-the-edges – this should be celebrated. Instead things are becoming regimented, bland and slick. Sadly, student conferences are losing their distinct student flavor, character and personality.

THANKS

It's pleasing to see the legacy of the Biennial Australasian Student Architecture and Design Conference continue, evolve and flourish. Hats off to all of the student organisers - it's a massive undertaking, but worth the effort. If you see them later in a bar, buy them a drink and say: thank you. Without their efforts valuable events like this wouldn't happen.



States of Mind gathered, 2004.

Epilogue

While collating this material, I've met a lot of interesting people. They are the past delegates, speakers and organisers of student architecture Congresses in Australasia, and they are now Associates, Directors, Professors, activists, teachers, architects, even a former Mayor. They share remarkably similar stories about student leadership, activism, how much they learnt, and without exception, how fucking amazing it was.

—A toast— *may our lips feel this golden night only once!*

Despite its desperate and disparate nature (or maybe because of it), I'm convinced that Congress is a community. It's a weird community that is not an institution, and not an organisation, but it is organised (with flair). It is a temporary, spirited, and nomadic community whose population changes every 2 years or so (with a few zealous Graduate repeat-offenders), and yet with cosmic certainty, its character and vigour keeps slamming into the world. Maybe it's because Congress is the work of a desperate minority, stuck in a dominantly conservative student body, which by definition (if you're reading this) you should be excited about. Flux is your next hit, and as Tim Hill told me —warned me— Congress is addictive, even Re:hab turned out to be a heady fix.

So what does Congress offer its host? Patrick suggests it might be parasitically draining student leadership, but what about the cities and spaces that Congress swells into? When the exhausted trail of Congress is scrawled across Australasia, I have questions. Why on earth Congress hasn't returned to Melbourne since 1964 is a mystery to me, and why it kept going back to Canberra is just as baffling. Brisbane and Perth have also taken a long breather, and despite Auckland's strong representation in the early days, they haven't pulled one off since 1983 (although they tried in 2001). Maybe those places are fine, maybe Congress is a solution to an immediate and local problem. If so, we need to scratch beneath the surface, interrogate our hosts, come to their aide. On the other hand maybe Congress is the resolute cry of a community who are thriving, in which case

—A toast— *To our combined voice,
Giving thunderous applause,
Drinking up, dancing more,
and asking again in the morning.*

Byron

Byron Kinnaird is a historian despite his best efforts to suppress this embarrassing inclination. He studied architecture in Wellington and Copenhagen, during which he served the Architecture and Design Student Association for a few years before they all got together and made a student congress happen in 2007. Since graduating, Byron has been a teacher at Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Melbourne, where he started a PhD.

Byron is currently researching the institutional tensions inherent in the development of architecture education; works research & policy at the NSW Architects Registration Board; and is convinced he will finish this book about Congress.

It is remarkable that a student event can survive almost 50 years without a governing body, or maybe it has survived 50 years because it hasn't had a governing body to fail it. Each of these congresses/conferences/conventions/festivals/parties/carnivals is a small yet significant miracle. Hell, any individual student travelling up to 3 or 4 thousand kilometres to get to one of these is a small miracle. That this event keeps happening every 2 or so years without institutional prompting or ongoing funding almost defies belief. That this event continues to exist and flourish today is a testament to the ongoing liveliness of youthful activism, and the dogged ingenuity and creative persistence of architecture students.

Apart from a small number of obscure publications, the whakapapa, or geneology of this event is carried entirely in the hearts and minds of its participants, in the speakers, attendees, and organisers that keep returning. They carry the stories, anecdotes, and lessons of past efforts.

Flux was this authors 3rd, from afar Nathaniel also his 3rd, Melbourne based Andrew Maynard finally got his local event in 2015 but he's attended 4 (or 5?), Timothy Hill's run goes back to the late nineties with 4 or 5 or so. Back in the 60s Leckie Ord, Ian Goddfrey and John Byrne of the AASA must have attended a good 6 or 7 each. The NZ camp have long waits between innings, (24 years was the last gap!) but elders Mike Austin and Kerry Francis must have 3 or 4 each under their belt, and Rewi's 3rd. From our accounts current reigning champ and former SONA president Patrick "I Love the Congress" Stein leads the field with a stunning 5 consecutive appearances. But hey, who's counting?

It's amazing returning to these events and seeing the same brilliant innovations and the same mistakes occurring again and again. Looking at the patched history of the congress one is reminded of Samuel Becketts famous quip to "*Go on failing. Go on. Only next time, try to fail better.*" It's fabulous and shows a healthy amount of re-invention occurs in each conference. Damn efficiency and institutional memory, the presence of failures and mistakes in the congresses assures us that it is been held for the right reasons, because a group of young upstarts with a yearning for learning and a desire for something different want it to happen, because they need it to happen.

The elders of congress should be respected and listened to but don't take anything we say too seriously. Nostalgia can be lethal. Get out there and make your own new innovative mistakes. Surprise the world, and yourselves.

Barnaby

While studying at Victoria University, Barnaby, and three class mates, James Coyle, Sally Ogle, and Eloise Veber somehow managed to convince their head of school Gordon Holden (aka Golden) to help fund a trip over to Tasmania to attend States of Mind. Tasmania reminded them of photos they'd seen of New Zealand in the 1970s but the conference was incredible, new friendships and rich lectures fueled a late somewhat amateur but enthusiastic bid to host the next congress in Wellington. They lost to a strong bid from staff and students at Queensland. Perhaps the presence of staff was a bad sign, Finegrain floundered in 2006 and Wellington, somewhat accidentally found themselves hosting what became known as Ctrishift07, or as one attendee put it "The best week of my life".

CONGRESS

location / path / frequency

4+ visits



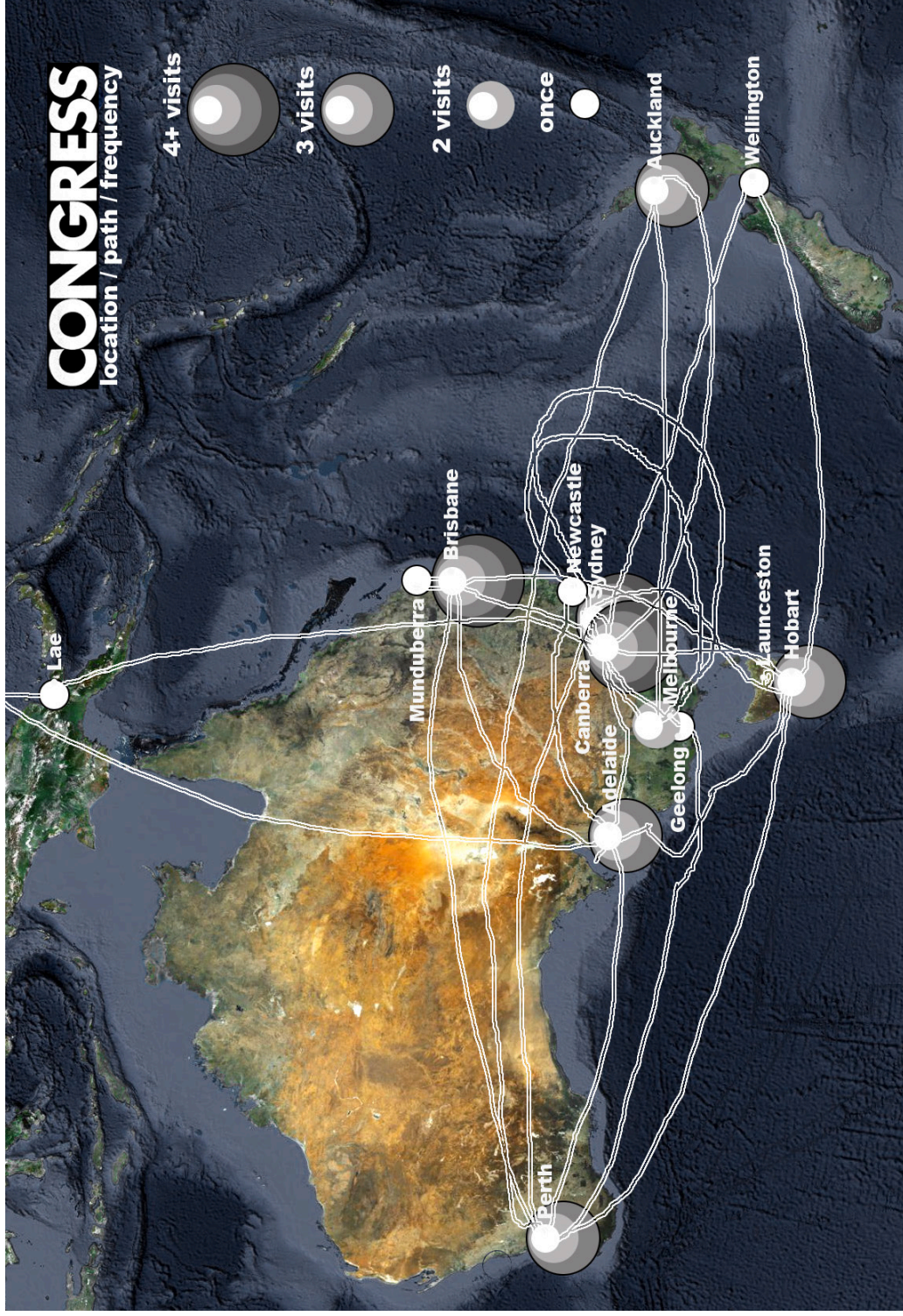
3 visits



2 visits



once



Acknowledgements

We are grateful and indebted to the organisers of each Congress mentioned in this booklet, you have ensured that this remarkable project has (somehow) continued for so long. We also wish to acknowledge the speakers, organisers and delegates that have attended Congresses across Australia and New Zealand, especially the people that we have met along the way.

We have had incredible support and generous outpourings of stories and archived material from so many people while putting this booklet together. Although some of those meetings are not fully represented here, we wish to thank the following people:

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Shayne Lacy
Shannon Bufton
Adrian Lahoud
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Asha Tsimeris
Andrew Maynard
Timothy Hill
Jess Miley
Sean Mcentee

and special thoughts for the four of the great former congress speakers who are no longer with us:

Sir Ian Athfield
Gerald Melling
Paul Pholeros
Rewi Thompson