



QEST President Report, 2022 AGM

It's difficult to believe the journey we have all taken these past 3 years. From natural disasters of fire, floods and cyclones, to a worldwide pandemic locking down our movements. A fast pace of change and adaptation has been required to continue providing essential learning for students and remote resources for teachers.

I pause here for your thoughts on what strengths you have called upon to overcome these challenges. Scan the QR code and share your strengths to create a word map.



Our plan to showcase science with the Deep Blue ocean theme in 2020 was thwarted by COVID-19, and our dream of Sustainable Science by the Sea in 2021 morphed into a Virtual conference in the comfort of our own homes and schools. We celebrate the successful delivery of Virtual professional development in Term 3 and 4 last year, with the MAIN EVENT attracting 140 delegates. The QEST team developed new skills, with the support from our corporate partners, and a measure of courage, this year we are here together in a Hybrid form at ConQEST22 – nerding out with a Healthy Dose of Science. I dare not think about what forms of connection we will explore next year!

As we focus on health, we continue to focus on sustainability, including that of QEST. We have an abundance of experienced members that are able to mentor those new to the role. The recognition of leadership and networking in our school roles will continue to have a positive impact on our association, as we seek to provide opportunities for our experienced members to grow professionally and share their knowledge and skills with others. Thank you to the 2021 Tech talk presenters and ConQEST22 Peer workshop presenters, for actively contributing to QEST. I wish you all the best of luck in the Sandra Lewis Achievement Award draw.

As your President, it has been a pleasure to work with your elected representatives, learning new things, playing to our strengths and knowing that when we are outside our comfort zone there is a team of people to support us. This year's talented team has demonstrated leadership, ingenuity, positivity, creativity, kindness, compassion, resilience, courage, persistence, tenacity, and a passion for science education. It is not the work of one, but the work of many that makes our association successful and capable, and it is a most rewarding experience to be a part of this successful team.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my team for their efforts in bringing this conference programme to you. In a year that keeps giving us new challenges to deal with, I am so proud of you all and grateful for your contributions. You may feel these tasks were insignificant and easy however they have meant a great deal to me.

There are three members who have been constant throughout my term as President. To Jacqui Burton, thank you for stepping up 8 years ago to the position of Membership Coordinator - your humour, compassion and creative thinking is without compare. To Annette Gregory, I thank you for being there in times of need, for seeing my value when I could not, and for encouraging me to stretch and grow. To my mentor, friend and Secretary, Sharon O'Keeffe, I could not have led this association with an aura of confidence and poise without you by my side keeping things real and in perspective – thank you for being there. To my family, I thank you for being a source of constant inspiration, support and encouragement.

I look forward to supporting the next President of our Professional Association, as you have all supported me in my role.

Nikki Bradford, QEST President 2014 - 2022