

What a Wonderful World

I see trees of green, red roses too
I see them bloom for me and for you
And I think to myself, "What a wonderful world".
I see friends shaking hands.....saying, "How do you do"?
They're really saying "I love you"
I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than Ill never know
And I think to myself, "What a wonderful world".
- Louis Armstrong

How well the words of this song capture the atmosphere of the WATAC luncheon at Parliament House on 10th September. The beauty of the dining area with its windows overlooking the grass and trees of the Domain, with the sunshine outside captured by the joy and beauty of the people gathered within – hard to imagine a more wonderful moment of life!

As usual there were many young people and teachers from 15 schools mingling with WATAC-ers and their friends and supporters. The meal and wonderful service made the event just so enjoyable you found yourself wanting it to just go on and on.

Then came the magic moment when Bishop Pat Power, our special guest speaker, was invited to talk to us on the challenging topic 'Futuring Now – Today's Challenge'. If there ever has been a 'WOW' moment, this was it!

Great and honest man that he is, Bishop Pat's words were down-to-earth, inspiring, thought-provoking, totally inclusive and Jesus-centred. He left his speaking notes with us, so we will include in this WATAC News a short summary of some of the points he made.

The audience response provided many thoughtful questions and issues, and only the limit of time drew this wonderful session to a close. Those of us who were gifted to be present could never thank Bishop Pat enough for his words and commitment to life so honestly shared with us.

Other highlights of the Luncheon included the very beautiful Acknowledgement of Land led by two of the students, Lauren Ferreira and Mary Kikitis from St Scholastica's College, Glebe. This was followed by a heart-touching blessing composed and proclaimed by Jacinta Hart from St John Bosco College, Engadine. We have included the words of this very special blessing in the Newsletter for your inspiration.

Needless to say the fun event of the Luncheon was the drawing of the raffle with its multiple prizes, and the 'lucky-door' prizes. Maybe the most special win was when our youngest participant, Maree Willows, the 5 year old grand daughter of Liz Willows was invited to draw the final winning raffle ticket for a Peruvian doll from the Good Shepherd Trading Circle, and it had her own name on it!!! (Helen can swear she didn't look.) I think to myself "What a Wonderful World".

Of course events like this don't happen without lots of 'hands-on' work by amazing people. The Working group of WATAC is the number one energy force and leading the efforts for the luncheon were Helen Coles, Maureen Watterson and Margaret Keyes. Margaret Day facilitated the event with gentle skill and Maree Kennedy responded to Bishop Pat with generous words we would all have liked to say. Our thanks to all of them for the gift of who they are for us. Maureen Short, our photographer, also deserves our on-going thanks for her wonderful work. Maureen's fantastic photos from the day will be on the WATAC website by the end of October so do check them out. Go to www.watac.net and click on 'Photo Galleries' then the 2009 WATAC Luncheon.

Bernice Moore

For more on the 2009 luncheon see the October 2009 Newsletter