

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT LOUISE DARK

(presented at the Society and Culture Association of NSW
Annual General Meeting – 21st October 2020)

The SCA Committee of 2020 has demonstrated continuous dedication in promoting the subject while also supporting the teaching and learning of Society and Culture in NSW. I feel very privileged to take this opportunity to recap the challenges and successes of 2020.

At our 2020 Planning Day in December last year, our focus was to:

- a. Consider how to provide services to further benefit members
- b. Develop the application and review process for the Dr. David Dufty Award for excellence in teaching and learning in Society and Culture
- c. Maintain our reputation of providing quality PL and student days through the development of 2 x PD days and 2 x student days
- d. Develop responses to the NSW Draft Curriculum
- e. Develop and refine our strategic plan

And then... COVID! It is a testament to the SCA Committee that not only were we able to achieve many of the goals laid out at the Planning Day, but respond quickly and with great insight and initiative to a rapidly changing situation.

In 2020, the Committee conducted the following events:

- Celebration of HSC outstanding achievements at the Society and Culture Awards on the 21st February 2020 and additionally, the presentation of the inaugural Dr. David Dufty award for excellence in teaching and learning in Society and Culture.
- “Hooked on Society and Culture” accredited PD held in February at the State Library of NSW
- COVID then required us to adapt quickly, modifying plans for HSC Study Day, August PD and Term 4 PIP day alongside working together to establish ways to best support teachers and students impacted by learning online.
- The “Keep on PIPping” online sessions for teachers and associated resources held across Term 2 were extremely well received.
- We were also fortunate to have recorded a series of videos earlier in 2020 related to aspects of the PIP that could then be added to support PIP resources. These were incredibly timely – and will also be collated as part of our ‘let’s get PIPPING plan’ for 2021.
- Exam Blitz was our rebranded version of the HSC Study Day, with over 60 schools purchasing resources to support students in the approach to their final exams this term.
- During Term 4, we plan to record further videos to support our ‘let’s get PIPPING plan’ for 2021, while also supporting teacher PL regarding country studies within the CORE.

All presenters involved in these events must be congratulated for their highly organised and well developed lectures. Resources generated are utilised in classrooms all over NSW.

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The success of the committee is also reliant on the relationships we build with other organisations.

- The State Library of NSW continues to be the home of our meritorious PIP's. The Committee see it as very important to work in partnership with the educational consultants within the State Library.
- The services of the REDBACK team, who diligently film our events and provide professional quality editing.
- Professional Teacher's Council of NSW for their support and advocating of teaching associations within NSW. Their assistance with administration has also increased our membership over 2020, while reliving Committee members to provide new initiatives, such as the Preliminary exam paper and criteria.

Behind the scenes:

- The Society and Culture Association publishes a journal to its members 3 times per year. This journal is a collection of classroom resources, assessment tasks, and reviews by professionals. It takes a significant amount of time to co-ordinate; components such as; the graphic design, tweaking the layout, adding syllabus dot points and generally transferring someone's idea into a classroom resource.
- Dear Pippa is also an area of the committee that is unseen but is an incredibly valuable (and also time consuming role) Dear PIPPA responded to at least 150 emails in Term 4 alone, and up to 500 across 2020. We know that students who access this service are truly getting a "trusted voice".
- The work of the examination sub-Committee in developing quality examination materials as a member perk was incredibly well-received.

President's personal acknowledgements

We take this volunteer role on to support our fellow colleagues and to ensure the integrity of the subject for years to come. We are, as we were in 2019, still in a potentially serious situation while awaiting the final outcomes of the NSW curriculum review and it is vital that we have an active and large voice to advocate for this exceptional subject.

Many Committee members have fulfilled administrative roles that are a great support to the effective functioning of the Association, such as the organisation of events, applications for accreditation and website management and troubleshooting.

With these things in mind (and others!) I'd like to acknowledge the services of the 2020 Committee and thank them for the countless hours they have contributed. The Committee has worked tirelessly in a difficult year, supporting others while also attempting to have a work/life balance and attain professional goals within their own school contexts. I look forward to reflecting on our 2020 Planning goals with the 2021 Committee in December, reviewing and refining these while considering out member needs.