

Editorial

Hello!



James Clarke
Editor

A few months ago, I had the pleasure of spending time over a couple of days with Greg Whitby whilst he was visiting London. As well as writing *Educating Gen Wi-Fi: How We Can Make Schools Relevant for 21st Century Learners*, as Executive Director of Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta, Greg is responsible for no less than 78 schools in New South Wales, (one of which is featured on page 72). Neither Australia nor Rome have been slow to recognise his contribution to education: he's the recipient of numerous awards including receiving a Papal Knighthood in 2012.

Sitting in the GB Olympic Hockey Team's café at Bisham Abbey together with UCJC's Chair of Learning Innovation, Professor Stephen Heppell, I asked him what had convinced him that the traditional one-size-fits-all approach to education needed attention. His very personal and candid response was that exactly the same education and family life had served both him and his brother rather differently (something his brother had once rather pointedly expressed to him), and it was this private experience that, in part, convinced him of the absolute need to personalise education.

My own background is in design, not education. As such I'm constantly aware that I have no formal training to make judgements about what should and shouldn't be in learning spaces, merely following the *you've-got-one-mouth-and-two-ears-and-use-them-in-that-proportion* mantra. Listening to people like Greg and Stephen though, continue to convince me that what we're showing here in the magazine aren't architectural flights of fancy, aren't the self-indulgent whims of arrogant pseudoscientists, but are instead grounded in sound educational thinking (even if I'm sitting here in the UK as our government seems intent on dragging us back to the sepia-tinted, nostalgia-strewn days of schooling, with the reintroduction of selective grammar schools).

But we're all here because we want to make a difference. Mie Guldbæk Brøns trained as a teacher and, together with architect partner, Jens Guldbæk's use their collective skills as LOOP.bz to help transform schools (see page 08). Sam Rogerson on the other hand, born to a family of very traditional educators (his grandfather established a prep school in the English Home Counties, one that both his father and brother have subsequently lead) has looked much wider to Scandinavia and America in his quest to understand what a modern, relevant education might look like. On page 34 he gives an overview of the one-room-schoolhouse principle that's reigniting interest in the United States. Canon Design together with INVISION have certainly made a difference at Waukee High School where their Innovation & Learning Centre bring students and business together to solve real-life problems: Kerry Weig and Brad Leeper share that project with us on page 22. And we're delighted to be welcoming Stephen Heppell to a new regular column – Back Chat that's on page 76 – this time explaining how lots of little things can add up to make a very big difference, just as they did when he got involved with the GB Hockey Team's training centre back at Bisham Abbey. "Time off the pitch is no longer wasted time" they told him, and if you can get an Olympic athlete to say that about a classroom, just think what you can do with a group of students and a school. Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Clarke'.

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