

Closing Remarks

Susan Pond

President, RSNSW

Well, what a day. I'll only take up one more minute, but it's important to thank Julianne for carrying the day. She knew it was going to be hard. I knew it was going to be harder, and I'll have to ask her later where it stood on her assessment of the energy that was required. But I think she's done a fabulous job, and thank you, of course, to our final panel and to Lisa and Ariadne and especially Lisa for performing with such consummate skill, having only been contacted yesterday when Marcia was unable to attend because of her health. I promised that we will go back in this digital world and amend the program so that, forever more, you will be on the program and Marcia will be there as an apology. Thank you very much.

Peter Shergold spoke about the number of learning profiles that we create during a lifetime. I thought it was a very good phrase, and I think today I've created at least six of my own: one for each of the five sessions and the other related to how to be a community activist. I realised that each and every one of us here is a community activist. All of

the volunteers that have contributed to this through the Society and through the five Learned Academies, volunteers, and by definition, community activists. Everyone else in the audience, including the students, the past officials of the academies, and certainly the Society, the past presidents, of which we have four in the room.

We're all community activists. All of our speakers are activists. As the introduction to the program said, the aim of today was to show how great a community participation might impact long-term policy development for the benefit of all Australians. We heard some wonderful examples of that actually happening, but also some challenges about what else needs to be done to reshape Australia for the better. You've got no excuse when you leave this room. You are now empowered with all of the learning profiles you need to make your own individual and collective contribution and impact to and on a better Australia. Thank you all for coming. Congratulations to all of the speakers, to all of the organisers, and for every one of you who has stayed for the drinks.

