

Editorial

In this first edition of Synergy for 2013 we offer our readers a number of varied and engaging articles. We welcome back to the journal **Anne Whisken**, who was the guest writer of the Learning Landscapes section for 2012. Readers may recall that Anne used her articles to share her journey with design and change within her own school library. Anne has been asked to continue writing about her experiences as her library moves through the design and build stages towards establishing itself as a new facility within her community. Anne brings to this discussion a keen engagement with current views about learning and teaching and a willingness to share her ideas and explorations.

We have also taken the opportunity to consider what to add to the journal and have invited Tania Sheko to join the team as the author of a section on the digital world and school libraries called '**Technophilia**'. Tania is a teacher-librarian and Director of Library at Melbourne High School. She brings to *Synergy* a range of experiences in online communities and is keen to embrace the opportunities which technologies of all kinds offer to learning and teaching. Her first article with us looks at ways to engage with social media to enhance learning.

For this edition we also welcome back our regular and extraordinary contributors, **Ross Todd** and **Carol Gordon**, both from Rutgers in New Jersey in the United States. Yet again these exceptional educators have contributed excellent articles that are both thoughtful and inspirational. Only a few days ago their most recent research work with CiSSL was reported on in the *School Library Journal* in an article titled '**CiSSL Study Helps Define Role of Successful NJ School Libraries**'. On behalf of the journal and SLAV, I'd like to acknowledge Ross and Carol for their constant support over so many years.

We also renew acquaintances with a range of authors, researchers and practitioners. Two of the authors in this edition are also presenters at conferences for SLAV during 2013. Many readers will recall the wonderful keynote by Professor Tara Brabazon earlier this year in March where she challenged our thinking and our behaviour. Professor Brabazon continues to challenge us with an article titled '**Now media: How to value the useful rather than the new**'. We are thrilled to have such an influential educator writing for our journal. **Kristin Fontichiaro**, another skilled and influential educator who will be SLAV's international guest later in the year, also joins us in this edition. Kristin has written an article on digital badging and evidence and this is an opportunity to read something by her before hearing her later in the year.

In addition to these outstanding contributors, we publish a **refereed research article on social media**, a discussion of an influential **professional development activity on thinking**, and a global focus article on **school libraries in Zambia**. Members have reviewed six professional reading titles; we publish a strategies piece on **QR codes** in library orientation and a very useful discussion by **Pru Mitchell on the professional standards**. Amongst all of this variety there must be something for everyone!

Consider giving us your views about anything in the journal. We welcome your feedback.

Dr Susan La Marca
Editor