

Let's Go on a Journey

*Andy Pleffer**

In 2007, students from the University of Newcastle and Macquarie University organised the inaugural *NewMac Humanities Postgraduate Symposium* (and its online journal *Humanity*). For students enrolled in masters and doctoral research programs, it offered the potential to be a significant first step; the start of something big.

Designed to give voice to postgraduate researchers in the humanities, *NewMac* presented an invaluable opportunity to gain experience in formulating and presenting a research paper and to network with peers from related disciplines. It provided a practical and public platform for further developing the research skills currently being acquired within the context of a postgraduate degree: understanding your topic; applying common themes in related disciplines, and; focusing your message to a captive audience.

In 2016, this tradition is still very much alive. I say this both as a presenter from its first year and as an advisor to the current editorial board at Macquarie University.

Following my paper's publication in *Humanity*, it went on to form the basis of a chapter in my thesis while I began to expand my research, writing and presentation skills in the commercial sector. I was able track references to my paper and views on my Library's repository as I moved on to produce conference papers and research reports in the public sector.

Now – with *NewMac* in its tenth year – I look back and see the difference it has made. For my own career path, it has helped lay the foundation for 10 years of exploring ideas, expressing thoughts and engaging with audiences in numerous contexts. I have also seen firsthand the positive impact this outlet continues to have on other postgraduate students in the humanities, and trust that their experiences with *NewMac* and *Humanity* will serve them well into the distant future.

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Congratulations and thank you to the myriad organisers, supporters, presenters, reviewers and readers of *NewMac* and *Humanity* for what you have delivered so far.

Great promise lies ahead and is yours for the taking.